

GIANT-SIZE MASTER
OF KUNG FU

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU™

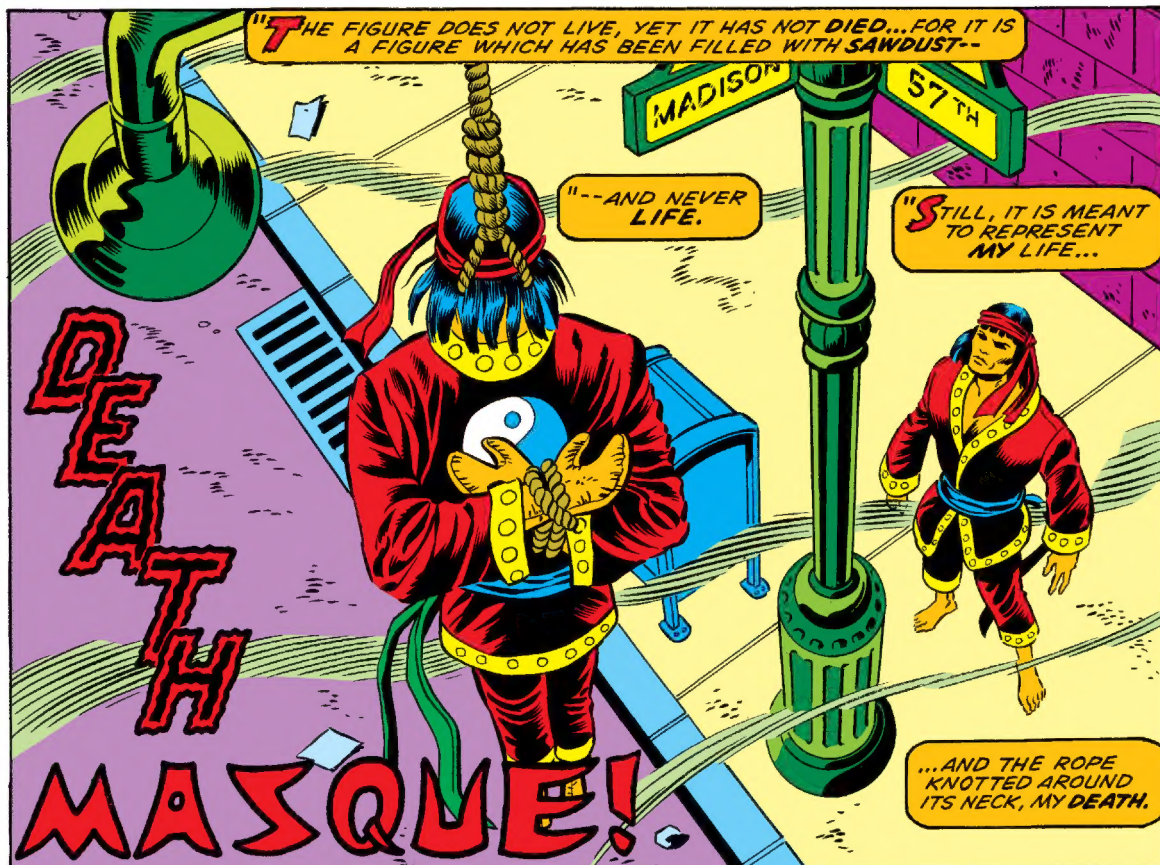
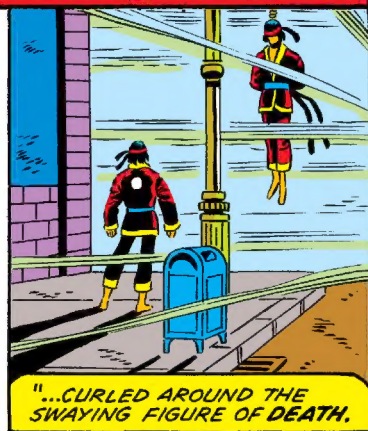
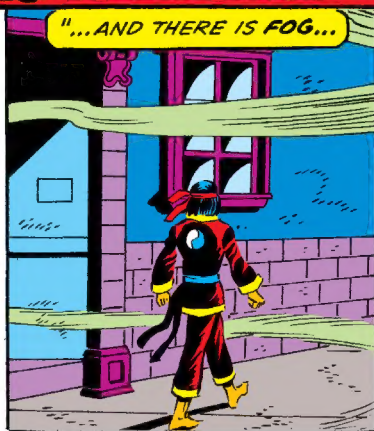
5 ALL-NEW
STEEL-SMASHING SAGAS
STARRING THE ONE
AND ONLY
SHANG-CHI!

BIGGEST
MARTIAL
ARTS
ACTION
ISSUE
EVER!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™



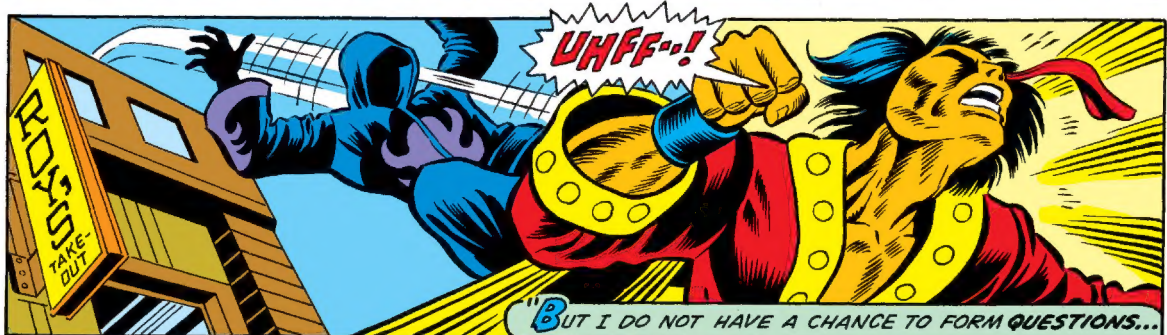
DOUG MOENCH
WORDS

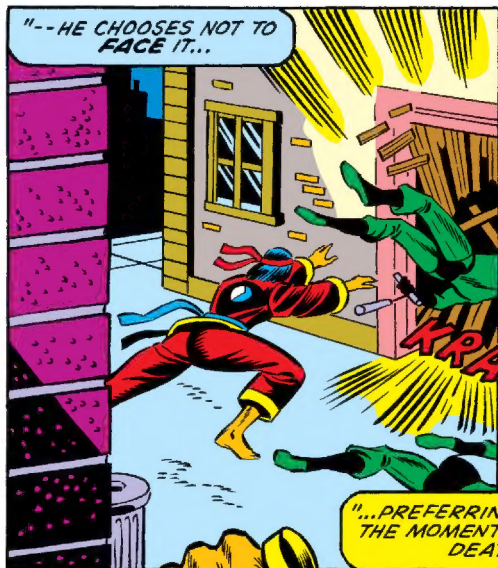
PAUL GULACY & DAN ADKINS
PICTURES

P. GOLDBERG
COLORS

ARTIE SIMEK
LETTERS

ROY THOMAS
GUIDANCE





"--HE CHOOSES NOT TO
FACE IT..."

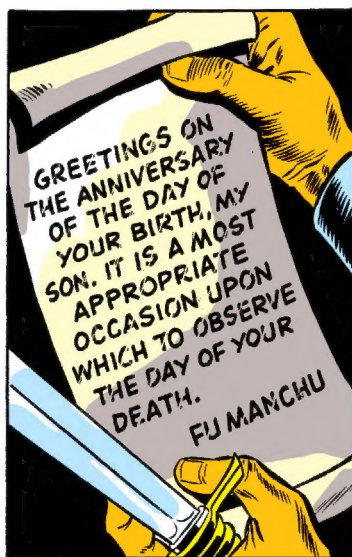
"...PREFERRING TO SWALLOW
THE MOMENT OF HIS OWN
DEATH--"



"--BY A CAPSULE OF LETHAL
GAS, LODGED BETWEEN
HIS TEETH."



"I MUST KNOW WHY HE WOULD SUBSTI-
TUTE HIS OWN DEATH, FINDING MINE
UNATTAINABLE."



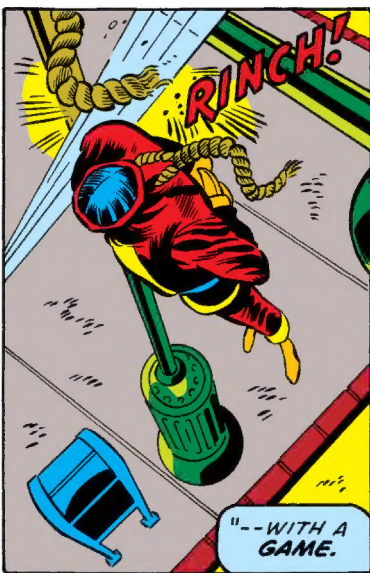
GREETINGS ON
THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DAY OF
YOUR BIRTH, MY
SON. IT IS A MOST
APPROPRIATE
OCCASION UPON
WHICH TO OBSERVE
THE DAY OF YOUR
DEATH.
FU MANCHU



"MY
FATHER..."



"...WOULD FILL THE
NIGHT--"



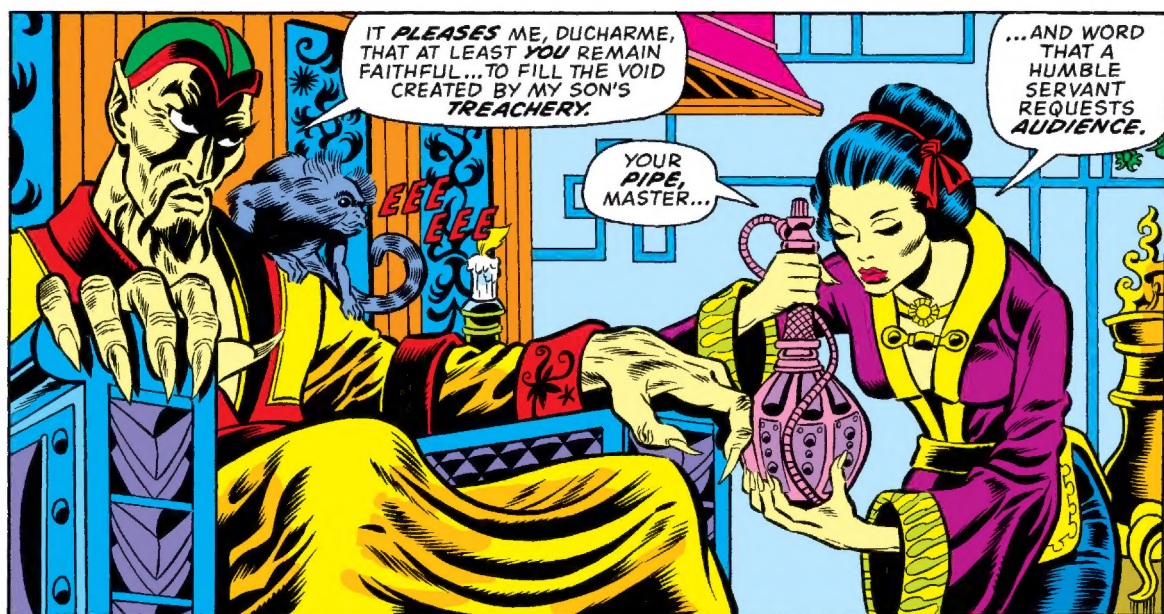
"RINCH!"

"--WITH A
GAME."



"A GAME IN WHICH HE HAS
WILLINGLY SENT TWO OF
HIS SI-FAN ASSASSINS TO
VERY REAL DEATHS..."

"...THAT HE
MIGHT
TAUNT ME
WITH A MOCK
DEATH."

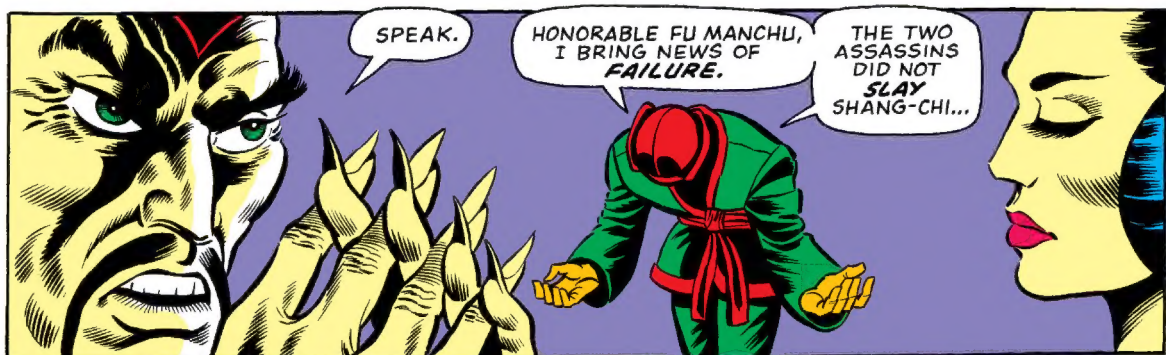


IT PLEASES ME, DUCHARME, THAT AT LEAST **YOU** REMAIN FAITHFUL...TO FILL THE VOID CREATED BY MY SON'S **TREACHERY.**

...AND WORD THAT A HUMBLE SERVANT REQUESTS AUDIENCE.

YOUR PIPE, MASTER...

EEE EEE



SPEAK.

HONORABLE FU MANCHU, I BRING NEWS OF **FAILURE.**

THE TWO ASSASSINS DID NOT **SLAY** SHANG-CHI...



...BUT WERE **THEMSELVES** SLAIN... BY **HIM.**

NO...



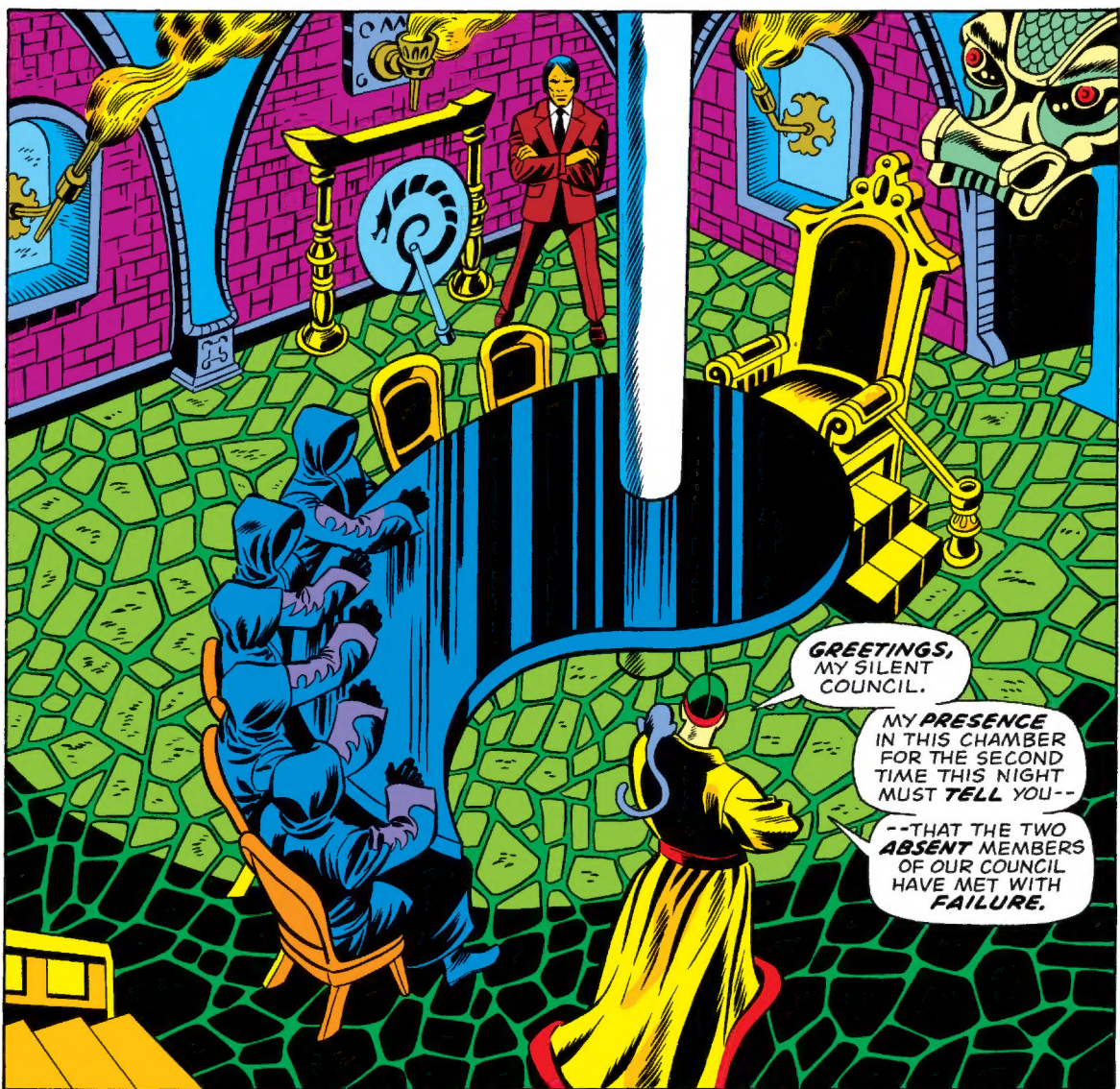
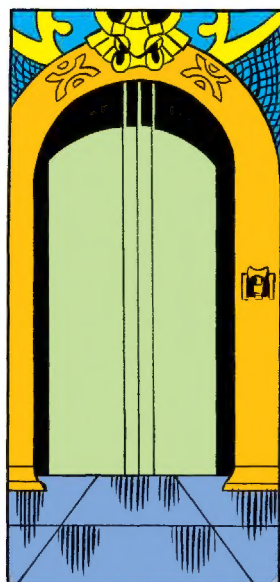
MY SON IS TOO **WEAK** TO DELIBERATELY SLAY **ANYONE.**

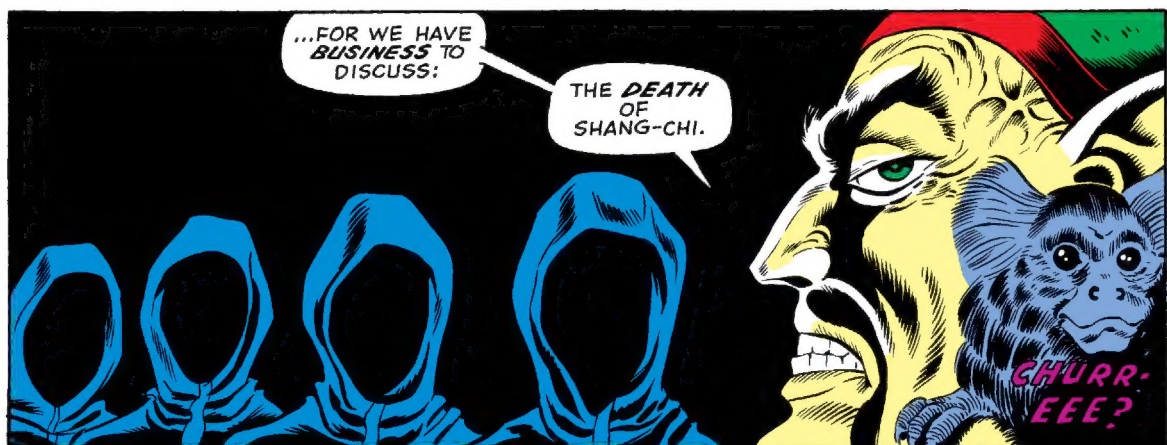
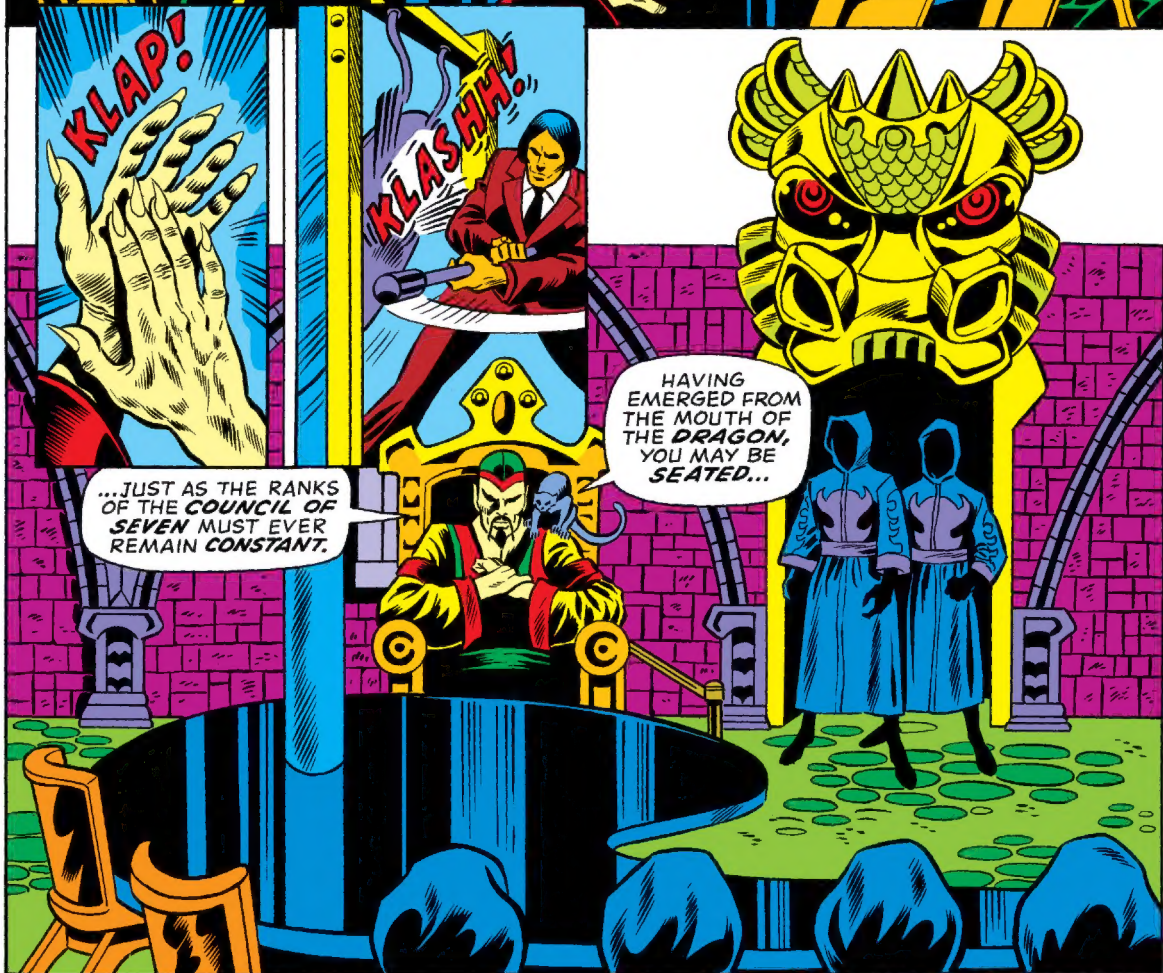
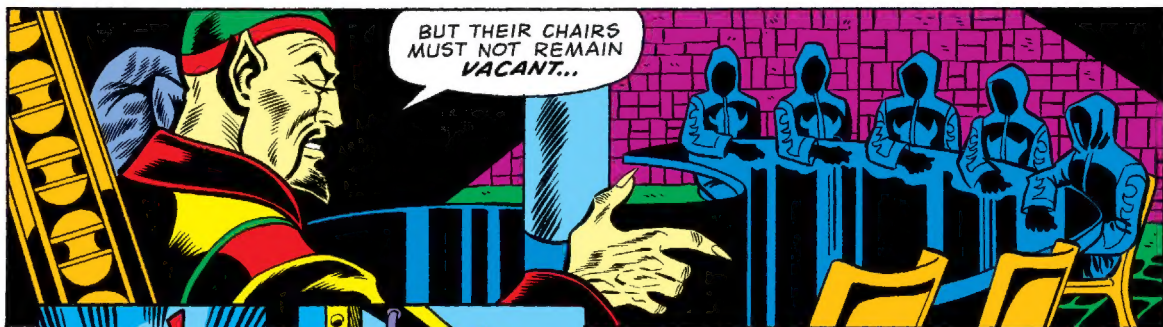


THE SI-FAN TOOK THEIR **OWN LIVES--**



--RATHER THAN FACE MY WRATH AT THEIR **FAILURE.**





PART TWO / THE ENEMY WITHIN!

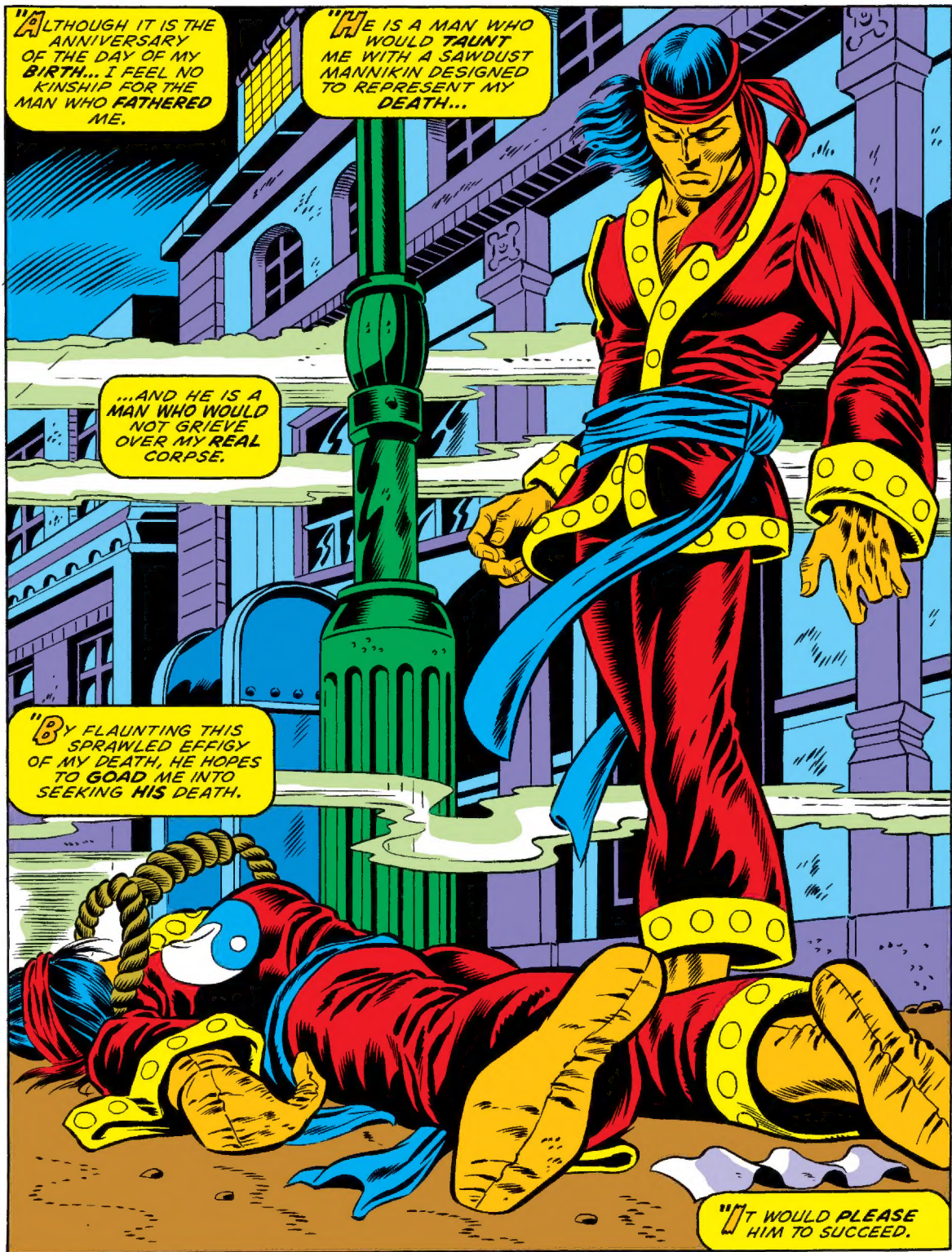
"ALTHOUGH IT IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF MY BIRTH... I FEEL NO KINSHIP FOR THE MAN WHO FATHERED ME.

"HE IS A MAN WHO WOULD TAUNT ME WITH A SAWDUST MANNIKIN DESIGNED TO REPRESENT MY DEATH...

...AND HE IS A MAN WHO WOULD NOT GRIEVE OVER MY REAL CORPSE.

"BY FLAUNTING THIS SPRAWLED EFFIGY OF MY DEATH, HE HOPES TO GOAD ME INTO SEEKING HIS DEATH.

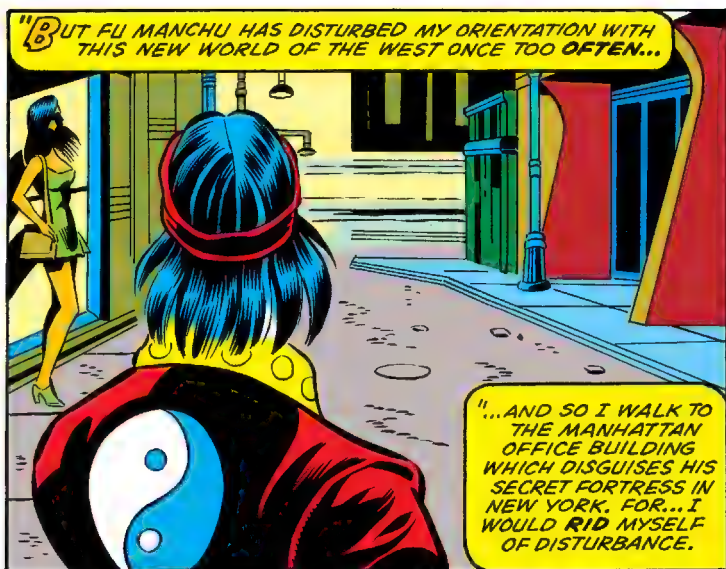
"IT WOULD PLEASE HIM TO SUCCEED.





"IT IS INNER WEAKNESS--

"--WHICH
COMPELS
ME TO
PLEASE
MY
FATHER.



"BUT FU MANCHU HAS DISTURBED MY ORIENTATION WITH
THIS NEW WORLD OF THE WEST ONCE TOO OFTEN...

"...AND SO I WALK TO
THE MANHATTAN
OFFICE BUILDING
WHICH DISGUISES HIS
SECRET FORTRESS IN
NEW YORK. FOR... I
WOULD RID MYSELF
OF DISTURBANCE.



"STANDING
IN THE
SHADOWS--
A GIRL.
COULD
SHE...?"

"No.

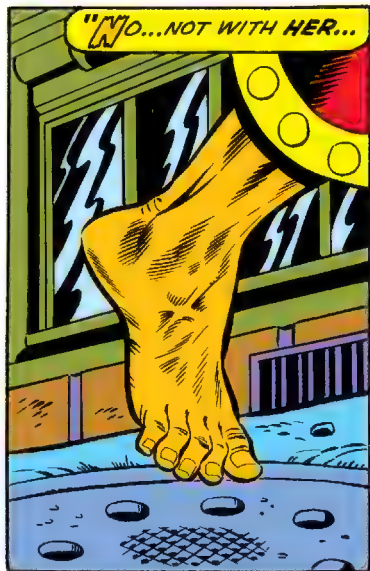
"SHE WAITS HERE FOR
ANOTHER PURPOSE...



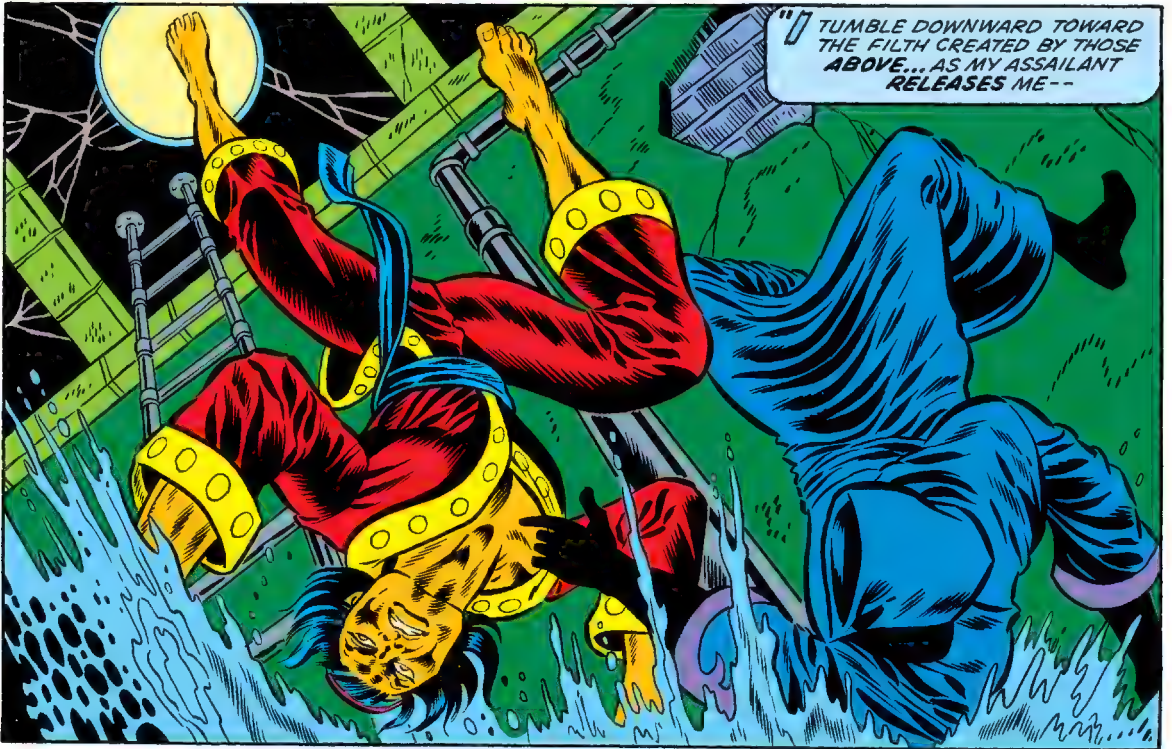
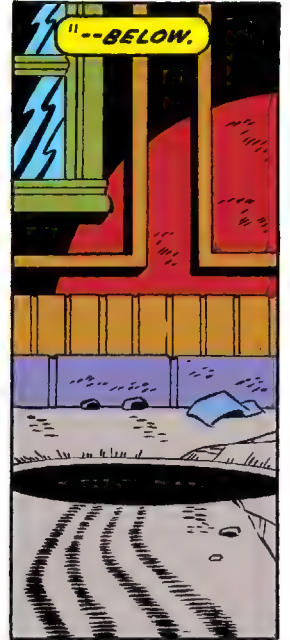
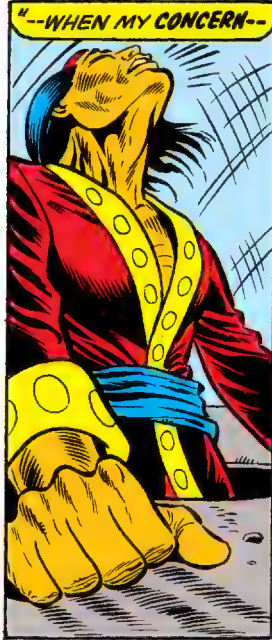
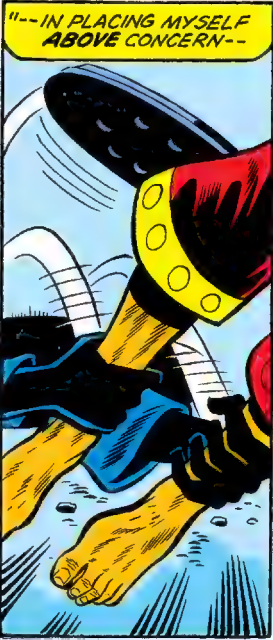
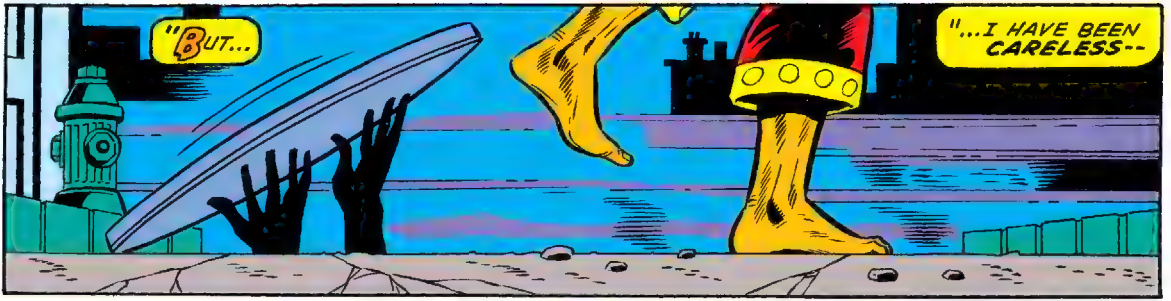
"...AND ON
BUSINESS
OF HER
OWN.

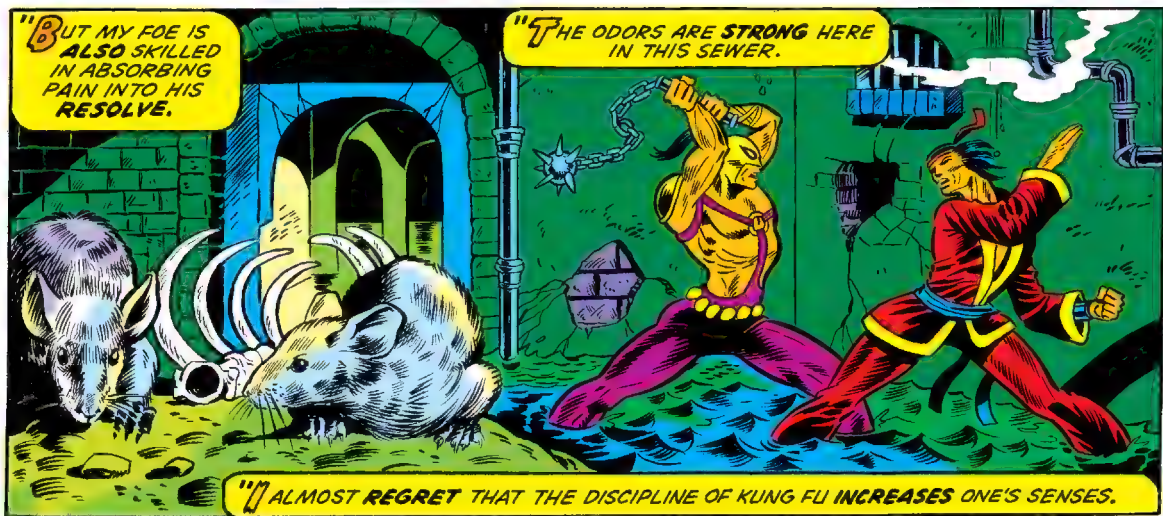


"I NEED NOT CONCERN MY-
SELF WITH HER AS I CROSS
THE STREET TO MY FATHER'S
HEADQUARTERS.



"No...NOT WITH HER...







"HE SNAPS HIS WEAPON FORWARD...AND THOUGH MY ARM DEFLECTS ITS FLIGHT FROM MY FACE--



"--I AM PULLED FORWARD--



"--WITHIN REACH OF THE WEAPON'S HANDLE...

"...HAD I NOT MOVED BELOW IT.



"NOW WE BOTH WIELD THE WEAPON. I AM THE FIRST TO ACT...



BWAT!

FSHSHSHSH

"...RELEASING A NEW FLOW OF FILTH.



"I WOULD REMOVE THE VENOM FROM MY FOE'S FANGS.

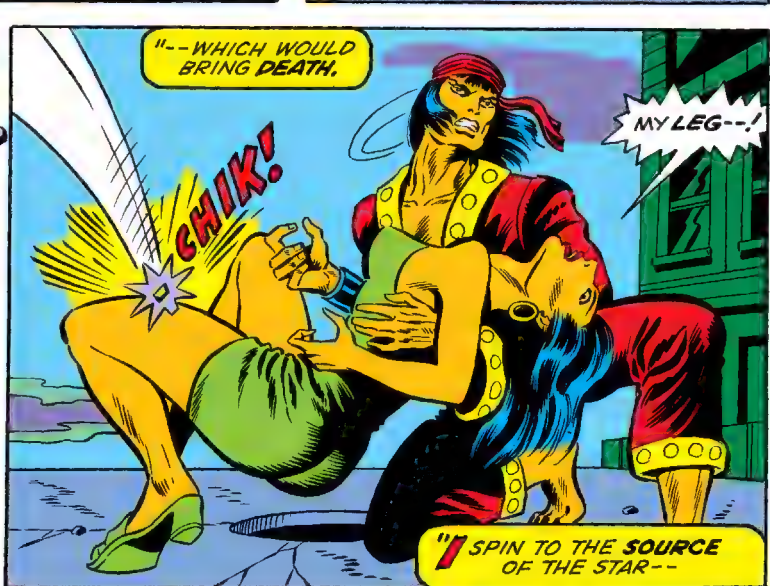
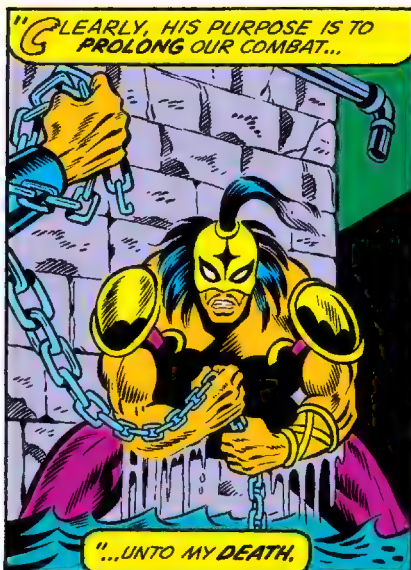
SHINKK



"BUT STILL HE STRIKES--

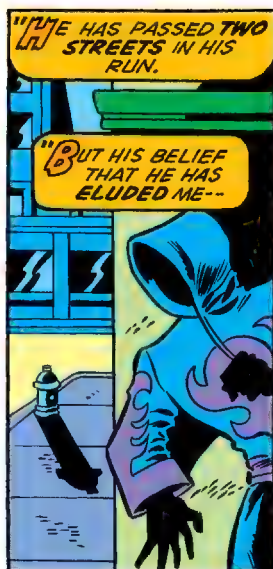
"--EVEN THOUGH MY KICK IS ACCURATE.

HUNFF--!



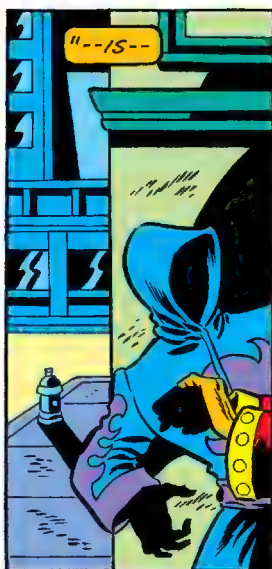


"--AND PURSUE IT.



"HE HAS PASSED **TWO** STREETS IN HIS RUN.

"BUT HIS BELIEF THAT HE HAS ELUDED ME--



"--IS--



"--FALSE.

SHUD!

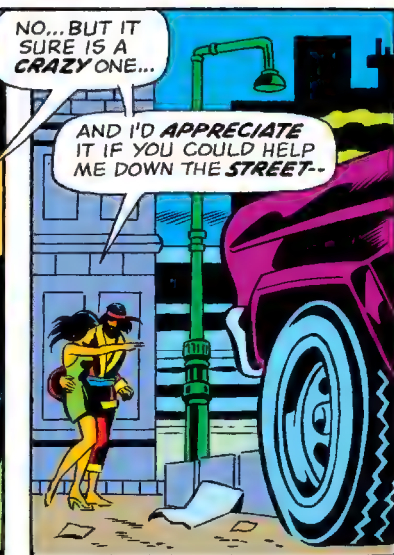
"AND HE TOO CHOOSES TO SWALLOW A CAPSULE OF GAS... BEFORE HE MEETS THE GROUND...



"AND SO I RETURN TO THE DARK WOMAN WHO HAS PAID THE PENALTY OF HIS POOR AIM...



THE WOUND IS NOT DEEP.



NO... BUT IT SURE IS A CRAZY ONE...

AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD HELP ME DOWN THE STREET--



"--TO HER LODGING.

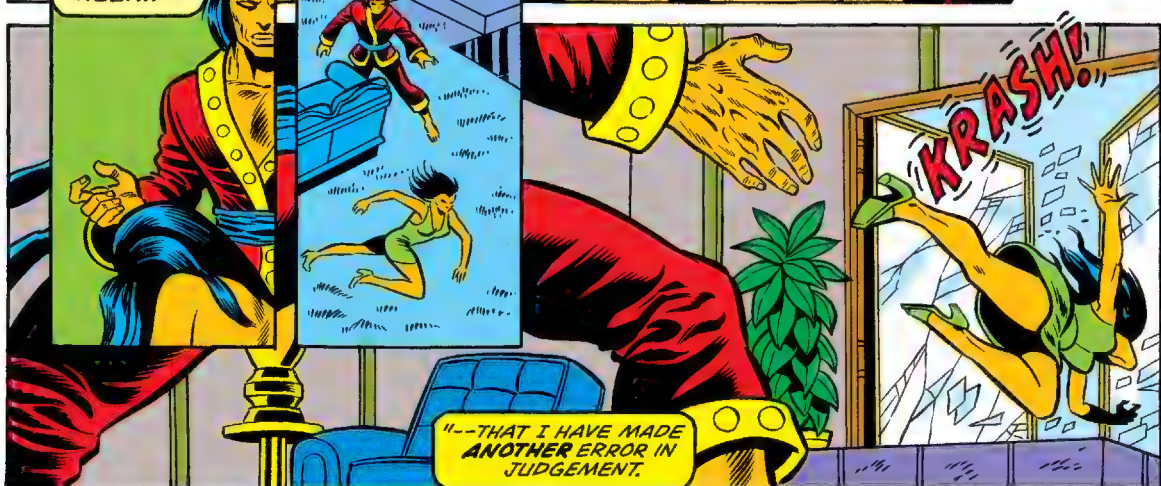
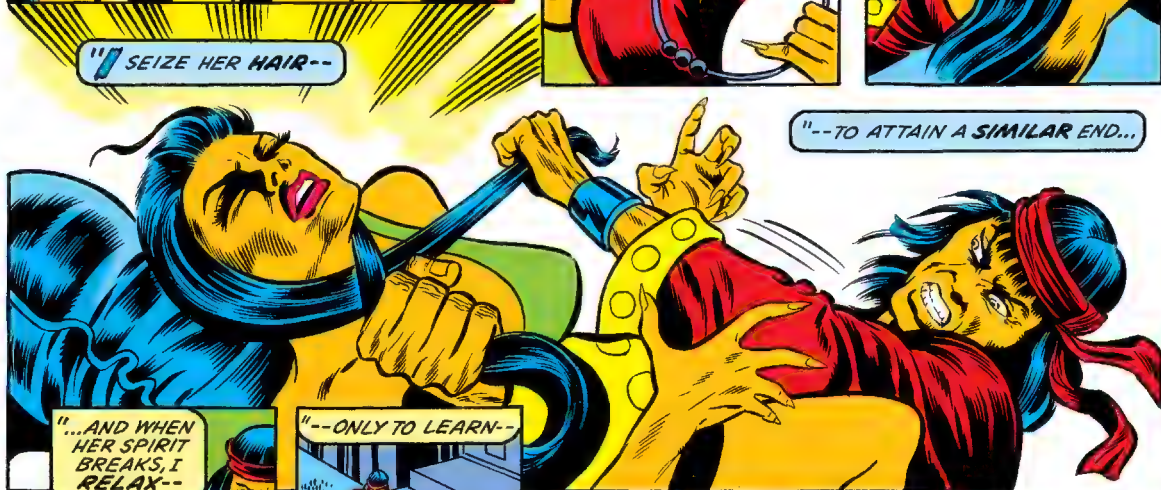
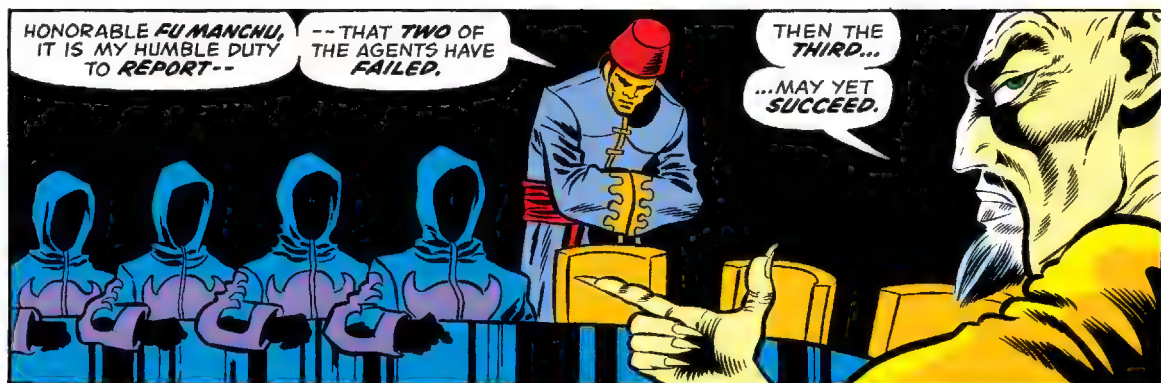
SPIFFY PAJAMAS YOU GOT THERE...

YOU ALWAYS WEAR THEM WHEN YOU'RE OUT SLUSHING THROUGH SEWERS AND CHASING BOZOS WITH BUZZ-SAW BOOMERANGS?

I DO NOT... UNDERSTAND.

NEITHER DO I, BABY-- BUT THANKS FOR BANDAGING MY LEG JUST THE SAME.

IT'S THE LEAST YOU COULD DO.



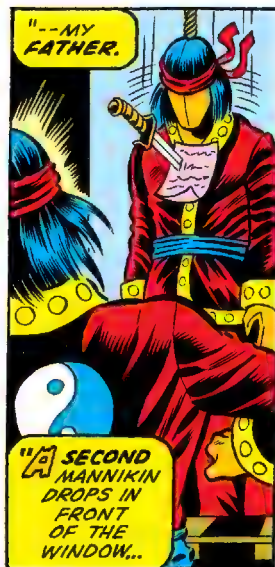


"SHE HAS NOT WORN THE ROBE I HAVE SEEN SO OFTEN THIS NIGHT..."



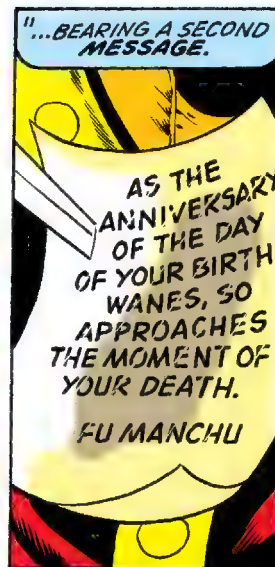
"...NOR DOES SHE SWALLOW HER DEATH IN A CAPSULE..."

"...YET IT IS CLEAR THAT SHE HAS BEEN SENT BY--"



"...MY FATHER."

"A SECOND MANIKIN DROPS IN FRONT OF THE WINDOW..."



"...BEARING A SECOND MESSAGE."

AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF YOUR BIRTH WANES, SO APPROACHES THE MOMENT OF YOUR DEATH.
FU MANCHU



"MY FATHER HAS ANGERED ME, I WOULD FULFILL MY INTERRUPTED DECISION..."

"...AND I GO TO THE OFFICE BUILDING WHICH MASKS HIS SECRET FORTRESS..."

"...AND MY ANGER DROWNS STEALTH."

PART THREE: THE COUNCIL OF 7

"THE VESTIBULE IS A HALLWAY DECORATED IN THE MOTIF OF THE WESTERN WORLD--

"--AND WOULD SEEM--TO THE PULLED EYE--TO LEAD TO OFFICES DECORATED IN A SIMILAR MANNER.

"BUT TO ONE WHO MAY DISCERN A CRACK AT THE VESTIBULE'S END--

"--IT LEADS TO A VAST HALL STYLED IN THE BEAUTY OF OLD CHINA...

"...BEAUTY PROFANED BY THE DESIGNS OF MY FATHER...

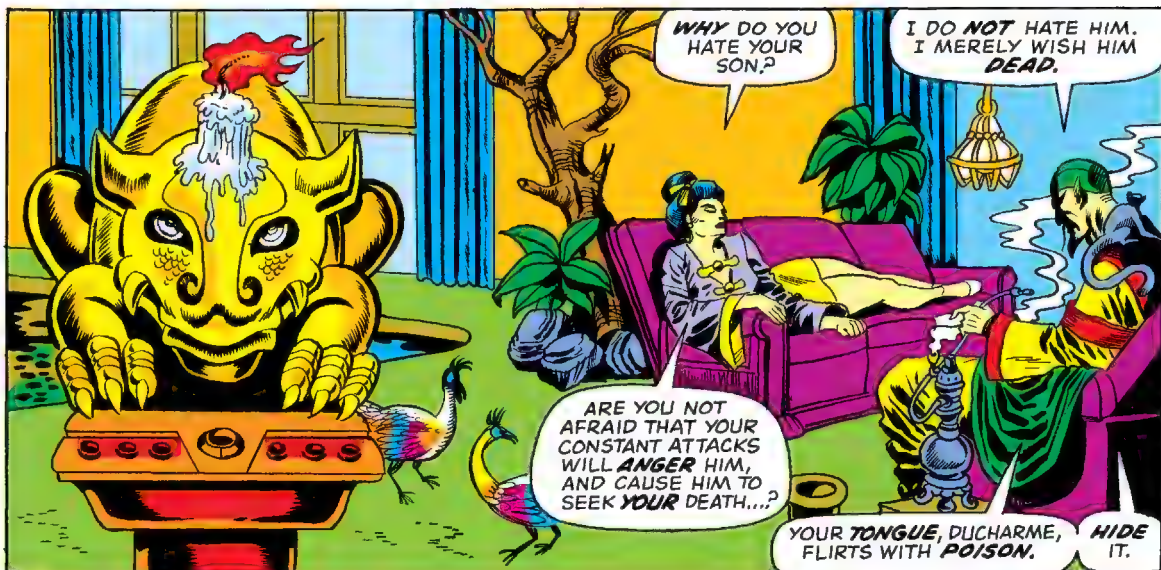
"...AND CAREFULLY SHIELDED FROM THE EYES OF THOSE WHO FREQUENT ITS WESTERN FACADE.

CHANK!

"I CLIMB TO THE ORNATE BALCONY...

"...AND THE STONE BALUSTRADE IS COOL BENEATH MY TOUCH.

"SO, TOO, IS MY SOUL CHILLED BY WHAT I HAVE COME HERE TO PERFORM.



"STEALTH IS AT MY SIDE AS I LEAN FROM THE BALCONY OVER THE MAIN HALL. THEY ARE SEVEN, ATTIRED IN THE SAME ROBES I HAVE SEEN ELSEWHERE THIS NIGHT.



"THESE ARE THE SAME SEVEN OF WHOM MY FATHER OFTEN SPOKE... AND YET THEY ARE ALL DIFFERENT... FOR THEY ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE SECRET SOCIETY CALLED THE COUNCIL OF THE SEVEN, AND LIKE BLADES OF GRASS-- OR HORDES OF VERMIN-- ONE RISES TO FILL THE GAP LEFT BY ANOTHER.

"THEY ARE FU MANCHU'S PERSONAL RETINUE OF ASSASSINS, AND WHEN ONE FAILS ANOTHER RISES TO TAKE UP THE TASK...

"MY FATHER WAS PROUD OF THESE EVER-CHANGING SEVEN, AND TRAINED ME TO BE THEIR EQUAL. HAD I NOT SLAIN DR. PETRIE,* I MIGHT NOW WALK IN THEIR RANKS...



*SEE SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15. -- ROY.

YOU WILL ENTER THE COUNCIL CHAMBER THROUGH THE DRAGON'S MOUTH.



"...AND THIS FACT GIVES BIRTH TO A PLAN.



ENTER, MY COUNCIL OF SEVEN...



ENTER--



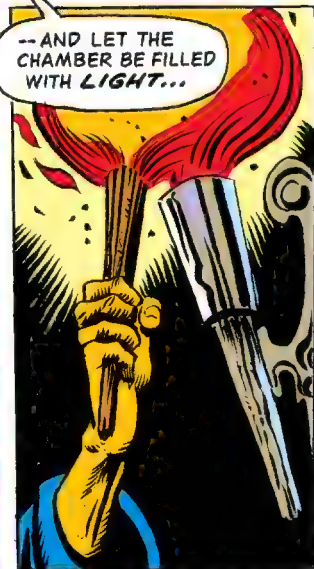
-- IN DARKNESS --



-- NOW.



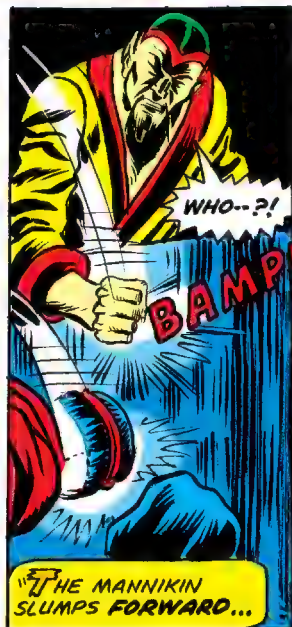
SEAT YOURSELVES AROUND THE SACRED TABLE--

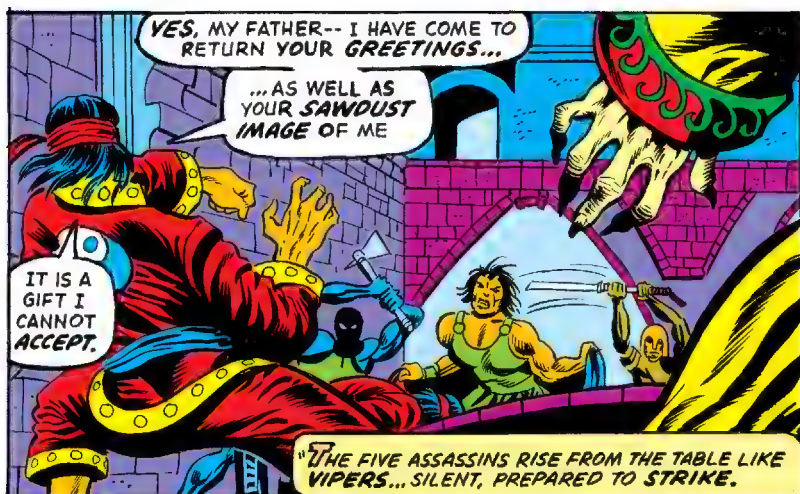


-- AND LET THE CHAMBER BE FILLED WITH LIGHT...

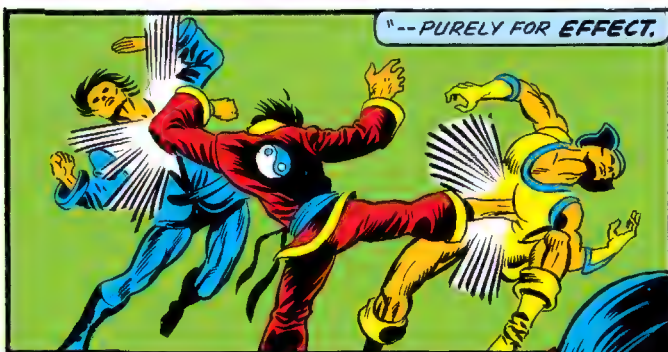


"...THAT I MAY NOW SEE YOU, AND BE ASSURED THAT THERE ARE EVER SEVEN.





"THE SAWDUST MANNIKIN I HAVE ROBED AND PLACED AT HIS TABLE IN DARKNESS... IS NOT THE ONE WITH WHICH HE EARLIER TAUNTED ME. IT IS A DIFFERENT ONE, DISCOVERED OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL CHAMBER..."

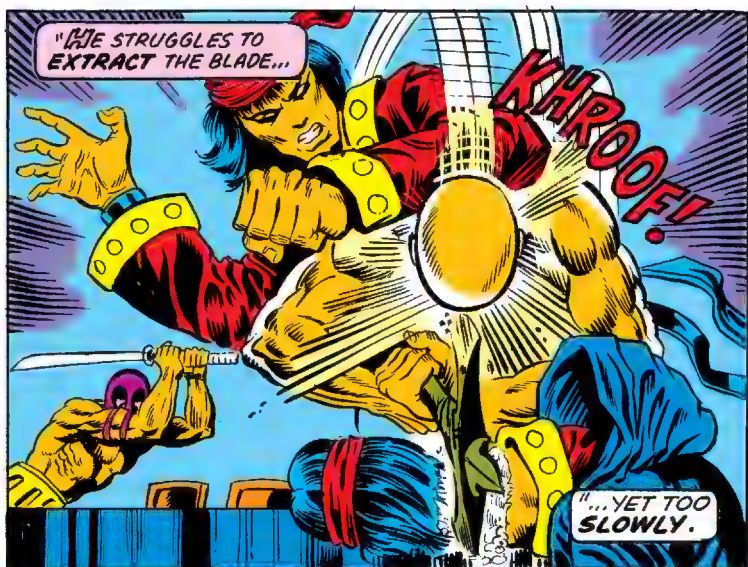


"...AND THE AXE CLEAVES THE AIR I HAVE VACATED--



"--AND THE TABLE BENEATH IT.

"HE STRUGGLES TO EXTRACT THE BLADE..."



"...YET TOO SLOWLY.

"ANOTHER ONE..."



"...SKILLED IN THE ART OF SAMURAI.



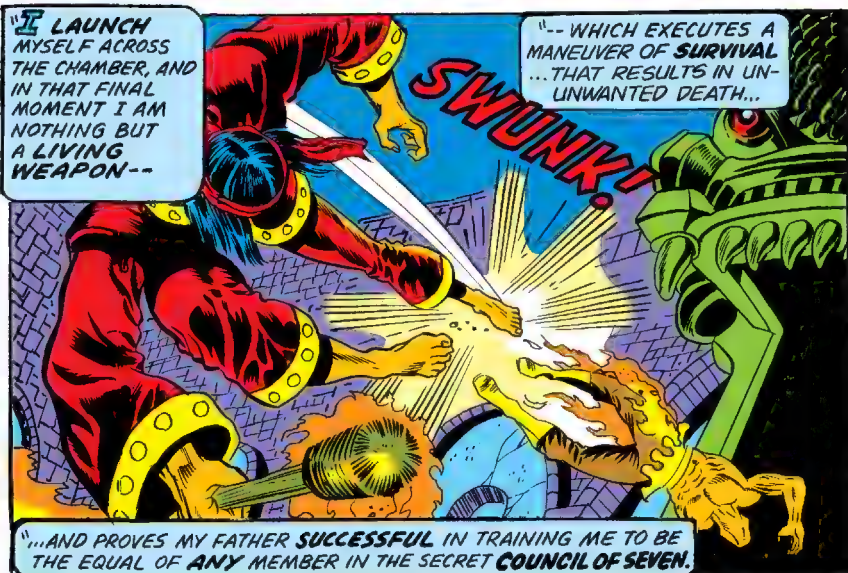
"BUT NOT--

"--IN CAUTION.



"I LAUNCH MYSELF ACROSS THE CHAMBER, AND IN THAT FINAL MOMENT I AM NOTHING BUT A LIVING WEAPON--

"-- WHICH EXECUTES A MANEUVER OF SURVIVAL ... THAT RESULTS IN UNWANTED DEATH..."



"...AND PROVES MY FATHER SUCCESSFUL IN TRAINING ME TO BE THE EQUAL OF ANY MEMBER IN THE SECRET COUNCIL OF SEVEN.

INNER WEAKNESS ALLOWED ME TO BE BAITED INTO COMING HERE TO CONFRONT MY FATHER.

CONGRATULATIONS, MY SON, ON SURVIVING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF YOUR BIRTH.

IT RESULTED ONLY IN PAIN FOR THOSE I NEITHER HATED, NOR WAS CONCERNED WITH.

BUT I ASSURE YOU, MY CONGRATULATIONS ARE BUT TEMPORARY-- AS ARE ALL THINGS IN LIFE...

...FOR THE DAY OF YOUR DEATH WILL BE SOON IN ARRIVING.

AND NOW... MY FATHER HAS GONE... ALTHOUGH HIS VOICE REMAINS.

THE NIGHT PLAYS AGAIN MY INNER WEAKNESS--

-- AND MY RAGE GROWS.

SPATCH!

IT WAS THE DOOR TO MY FATHER'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS...

... NOW OCCUPIED ONLY BY THE WOMAN KNOWN AS DUCHARME.

YOUR FATHER... HAS JUST LEFT, SHANG-CHI...

...PERHAPS YOU MAY STILL... CATCH HIM...

THE NIGHT SKY IS FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF --

-- A HELICOPTER.

THE SOUND FADES. IT RECEDES INTO THE DISTANCE...

YOU HAVE PERFORMED WELL, PILOT. AND NOW WE JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF AMERICA...

... TO STILL IT, FOREVER.

AND I WONDER AT MY FATHER'S DESTINATION... FOR THAT IS WHERE I WOULD DIRECT MY RAGE.

FIN



"THIS PLACE,
CALLED **MIAMI**,
FINDS **LIFE**
IN THE SEA
WINDS..."



"...AS THE WINDS
THEMSELVES
FIND LIFE, AND
SUBSTANCE, IN
THAT WHICH THEY
TOUCH."

"LOOKING AT
THE **PAPER**,
I AM ABLE
TO **SEE** THE
WIND..."



"...AND **GRASP**
ITS LIFE."



"THE **PAPER**, TOO,
HAS A LIFE OF
ITS OWN."

"IT IS FOUND IN...
WORDS."

"KNOWING THAT WORDS ARE THE TOOLS OF **COMMUNICATION**, IS IT NOT STRANGE THAT THESE TOOLS EXIST IN SO MANY FORMS...A **DIFFERENT** FORM FOR EACH REGION OF THE **WORLD**...?"



"WOULD IT NOT AID
UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATION
IF A **SINGLE** SYSTEM OF
TOOLS WERE EMPLOYED...
FAMILIAR TO ALL
NATIONS...?"

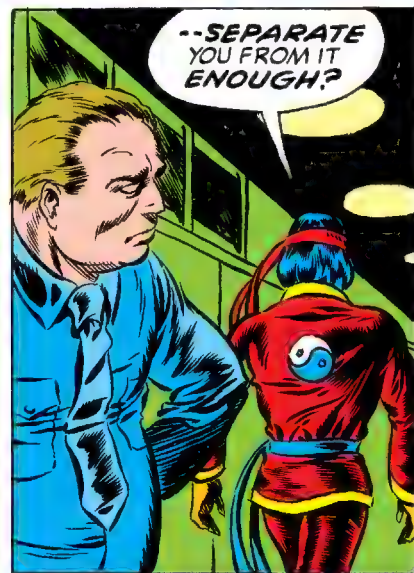
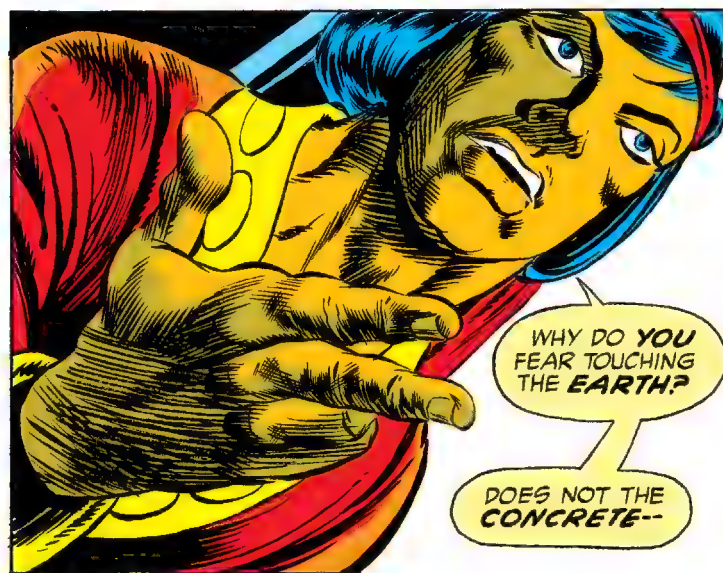
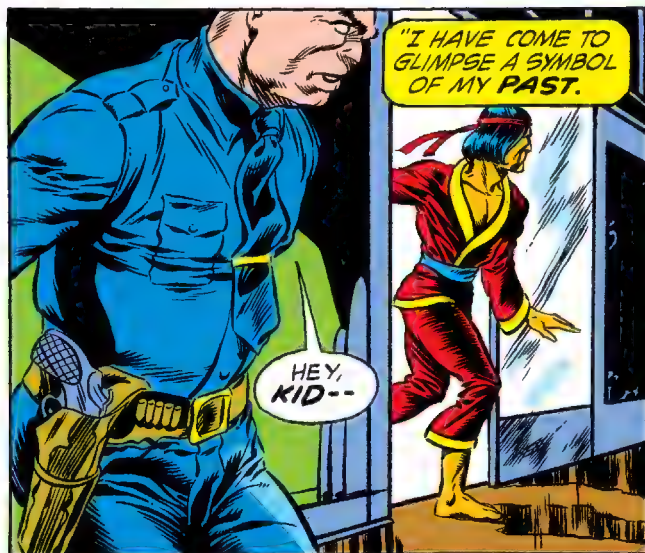
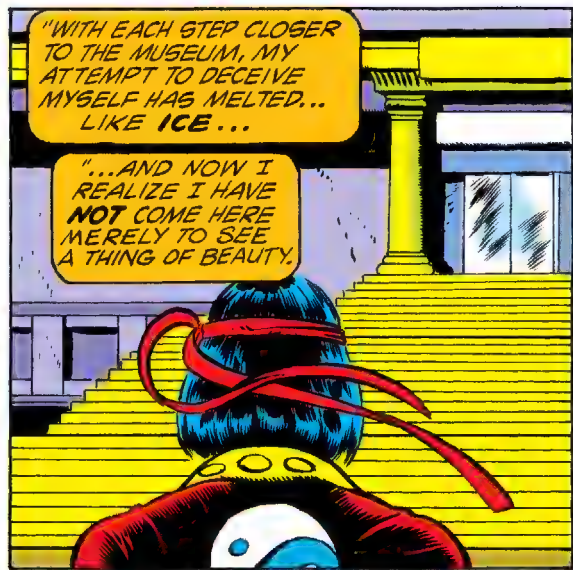
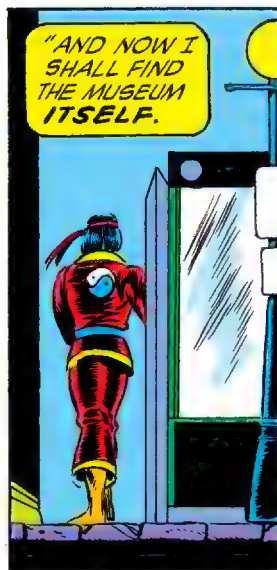
"STILL, I HAVE STUDIED
MANY LANGUAGES, THE
WORDS ON THIS PAPER
ARE **UNDERSTOOD**
BY ME..."

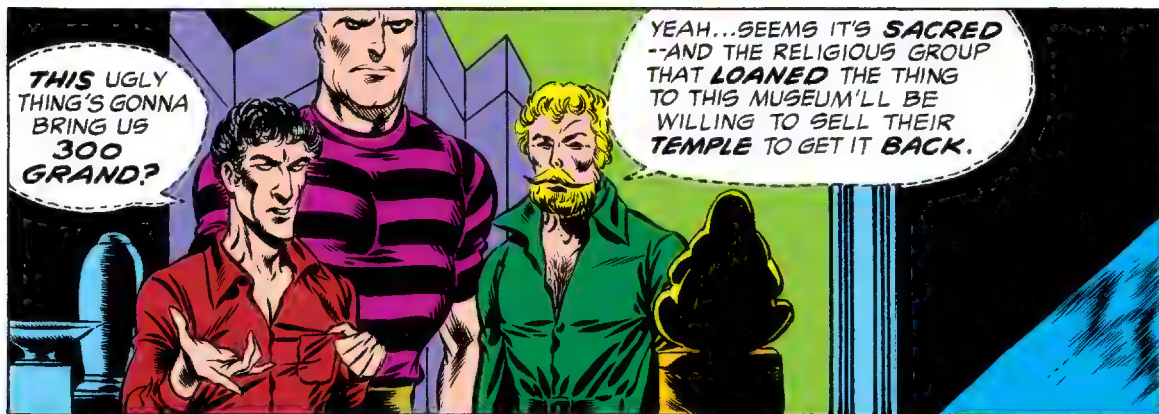
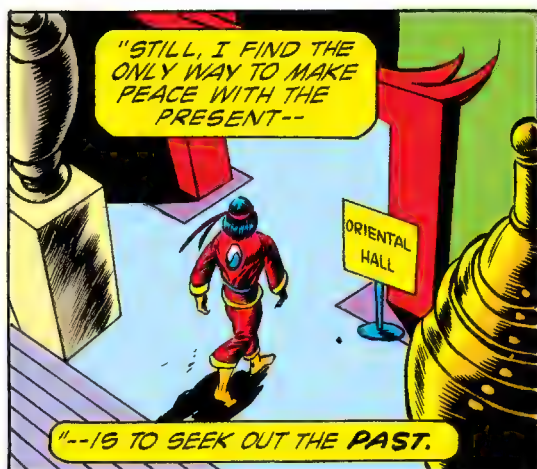
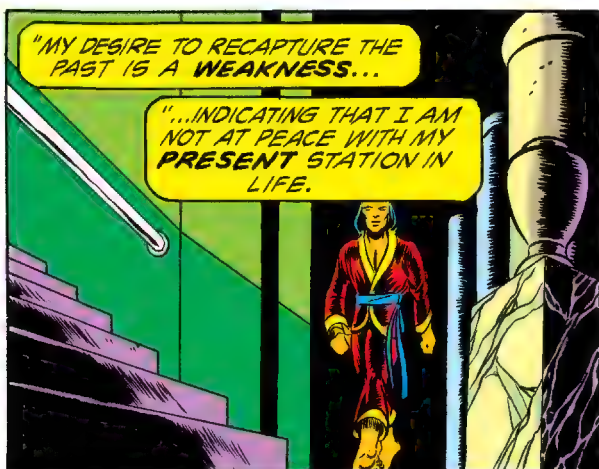
"...BUT THE **PICTURE** COMMUNICATES MORE
THAN ALL THE WORDS IN THEIR COMBINED ESSENCE."

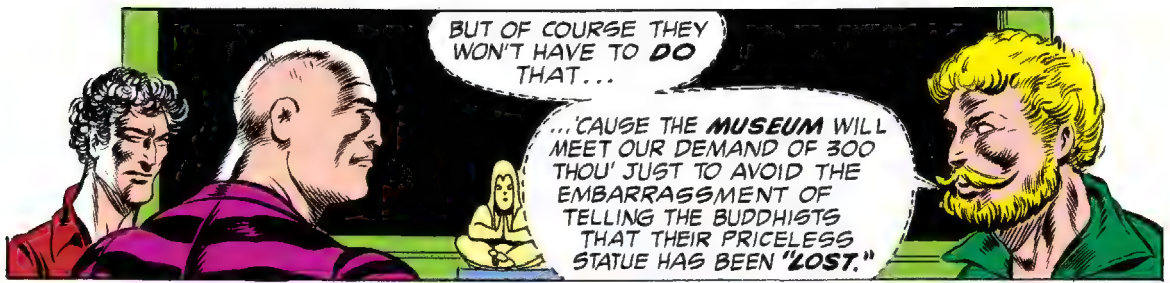
FROZEN PAST, SHATTERED MEMORIES

DOUG MOENCH
STORY

CRAIG RUSSELL
ART







BUT OF COURSE THEY
WON'T HAVE TO **DO**
THAT...

... 'CAUSE THE **MUSEUM** WILL
MEET OUR DEMAND OF 300
THOU' JUST TO AVOID THE
EMBARRASSMENT OF
TELLING THE BUDDHISTS
THAT THEIR PRICELESS
STATUE HAS BEEN "**LOST.**"



SOUNDS GOOD ENOUGH.
AND I CHECKED THE
SECURITY SYSTEM...

...NOTHIN' WE CAN'T
HANDLE--IN BETWEEN
TAKIN' OUT THE NIGHT
GUARDS.



GOOD. THEN
WE MEET IN
THE MUSEUM
PARKING LOT
AT **NINE...**

...DRESSED LIKE
**GREASED
PIGS.**



"THE MEN
WHISPERED
LOUDLY...



"...OF EVIL
PLANS.

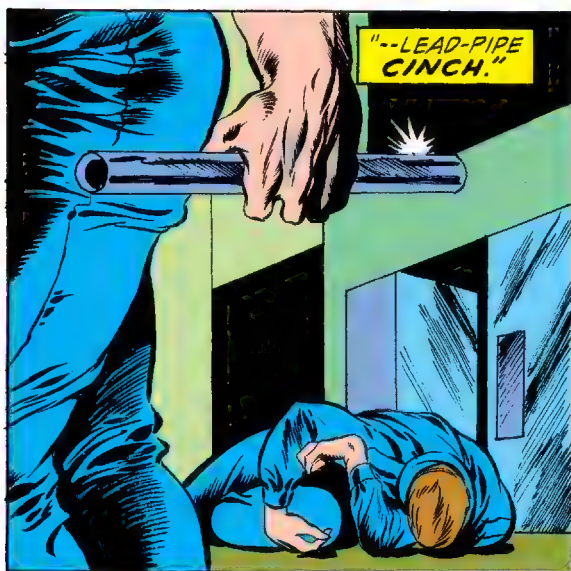
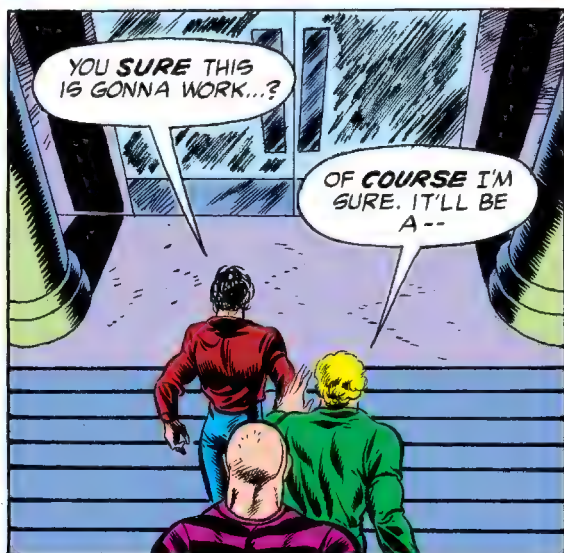
"I AM NOT A FOLLOWER
OF THE RELIGION WHICH
THIS STATUE **REPRESENTS**
... BUT I LOVE AND
RESPECT THE MEMORY
OF THE MAN WHO
INSPIRED THE STATUE...

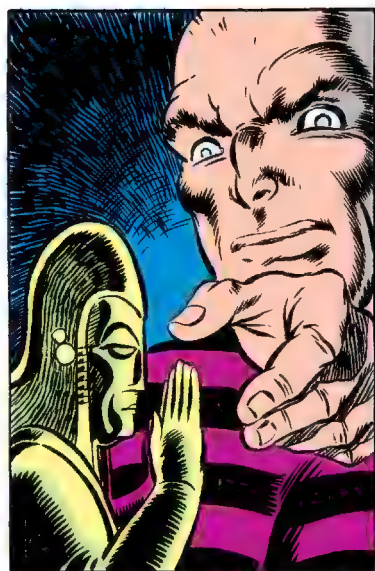
"...AS I WOULD
ANY MAN WHO
PREACHED LOVE
AND **RESPECT.**

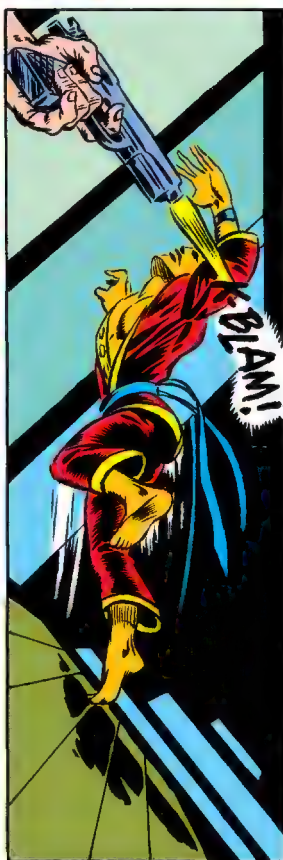
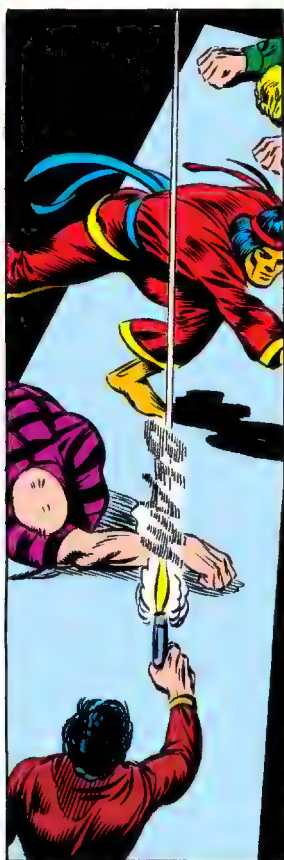
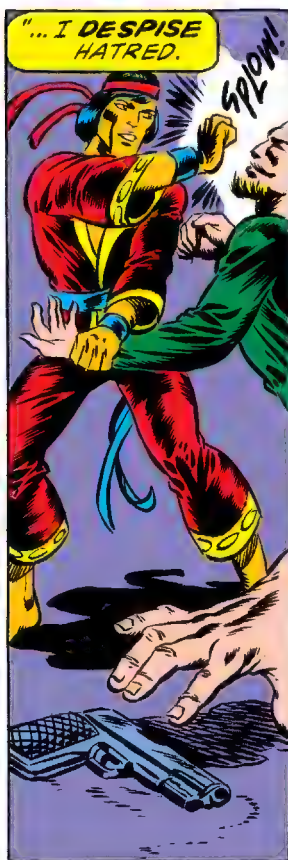
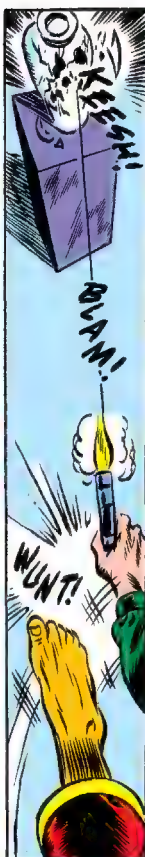
"AND I APPRECIATE THE STATUE AS A
SYMBOL OF CALM...AND **SERENITY...**

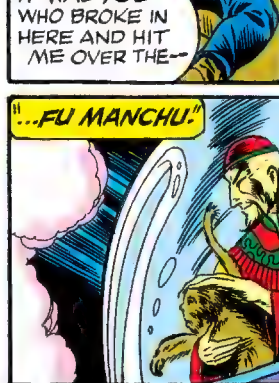
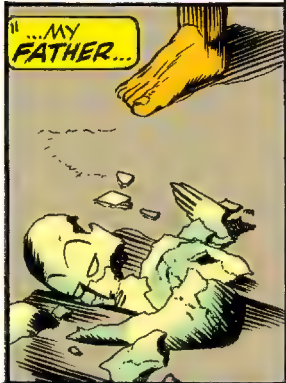
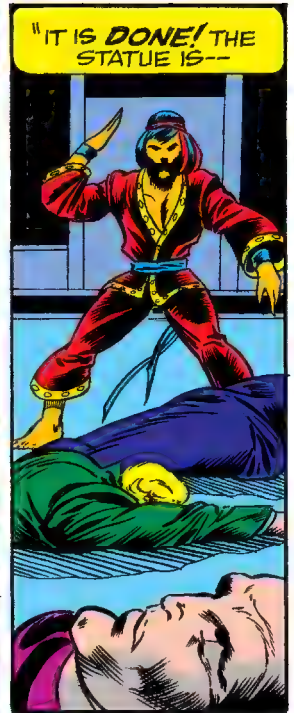
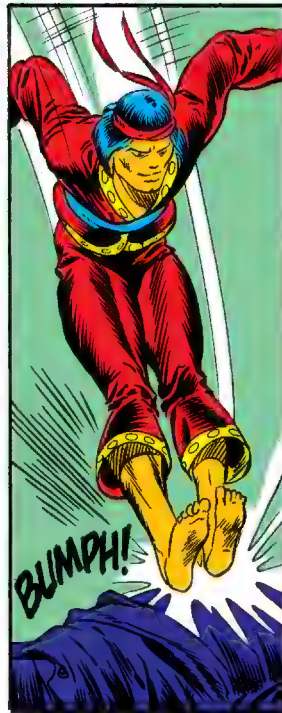
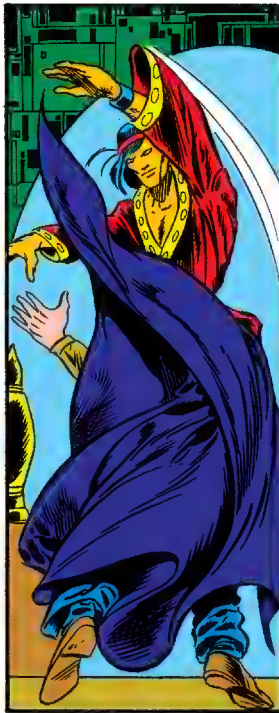


YOU--!









SHAOLIN TEMPLE BOXING

ALONE AND ON FOOT, THE
BUDDHIST MONK BODHIDHARMA
BECAME THE FIRST MAN TO
CROSS THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS
IN ORDER TO BRING THE MARTIAL
ARTS TO CHINA--A TRIP OF OVER
8,000 MILES ACROSS THE
MOST FORBIDDING TERRAIN
IN THE WORLD.

THIS UNIQUE MAN
THUS DEVELOPED
HIS PHYSICAL,
MENTAL AND
SPIRITUAL
DISCIPLINE WHICH
LATER BECAME
KNOW AS ZEN
BUDDHISM.

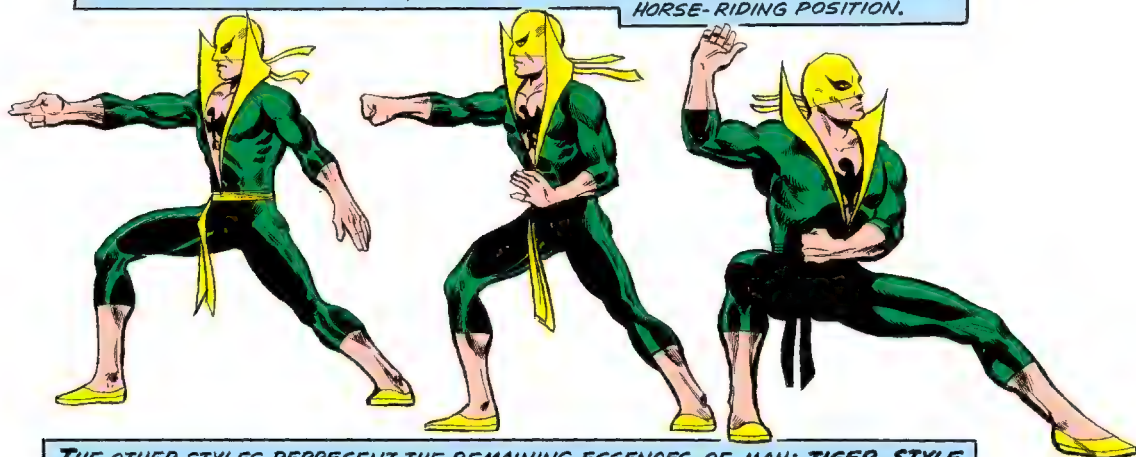
BODHIDHARMA'S CLOSE
OBSERVATION OF
ANIMALS LED TO
HIS INVENTION OF
THE SHAOLIN SYSTEM
OF DEFENSE. LATER
EVOLUTION OF THE
ART DEVELOPED
SOME 170 ACTIONS
WHICH ARE THE BASIS
FOR SHAOLIN TODAY.

THESE ACTIONS TOOK
THE FORM OF STYLES:
THE DRAGON, TIGER,
LEOPARD, SNAKE,
AND CRANE.

Frank McLaughlin—



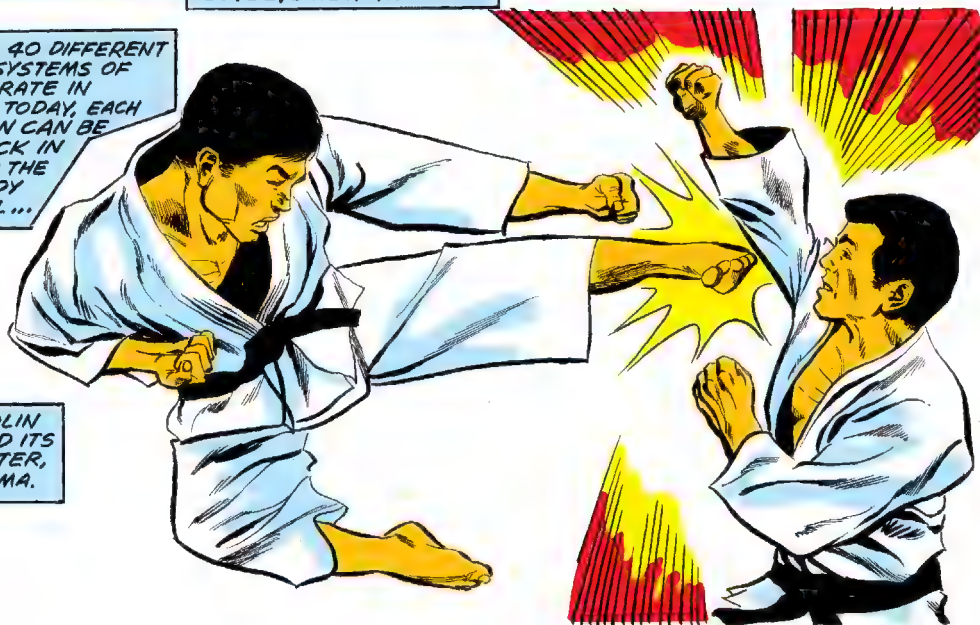
THE DRAGON STYLE ILLUSTRATED HERE REPRESENTS THE CIVILIZATION OF SPIRIT. NO STRENGTH IS USED IN THIS EXERCISE, WHICH IS MEANT TO REPRESENT A DRAGON FLOATING IN THE AIR, READY TO ATTACK IN ANY DIRECTION. NOTE THE LOW, HORSE-RIDING POSITION.



THE OTHER STYLES REPRESENT THE REMAINING ESSENCES OF MAN: TIGER-STYLE, THE TRAINING OF BONES; LEOPARD STYLE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRENGTH; SNAKE STYLE, THE CULTIVATION OF CH'I OR LIFE FORCE; AND CRANE STYLE, SINEW TRAINING.

WITH OVER 40 DIFFERENT STYLES OR SYSTEMS OF MODERN KARATE IN EXISTENCE TODAY, EACH ONE'S ORIGIN CAN BE TRACED BACK IN HISTORY TO THE GRAND DADDY OF THEM ALL...

...THE SHAOLIN SYSTEM AND ITS GRAND MASTER, BODHIDHARMA.



IN AN ANCIENT MANCHU PALACE HIDDEN IN A MIST-FILLED VALLEY DEEP
AMONG THE FOOTHILLS OF THE TIBETIAN ALPS, AMERICA'S GREATEST
MENACE WAITED... A LEGENDARY ORIENTAL MYSTIC WHOSE VERY NAME
ALARMED THOSE WHO WERE FAMILIAR WITH HIS STRANGE AND TERRIBLE
POWERS! READ, NOW OF...

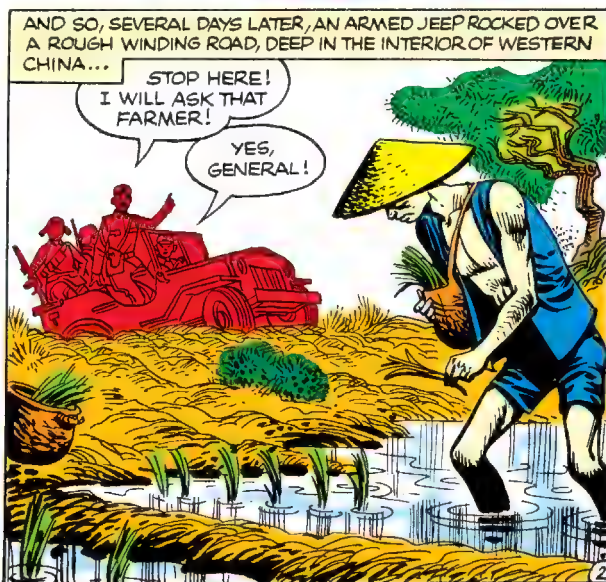
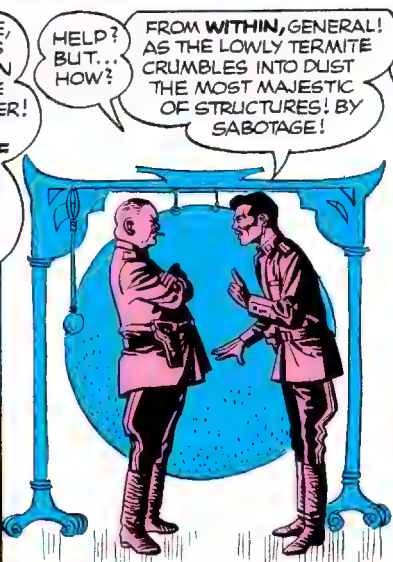
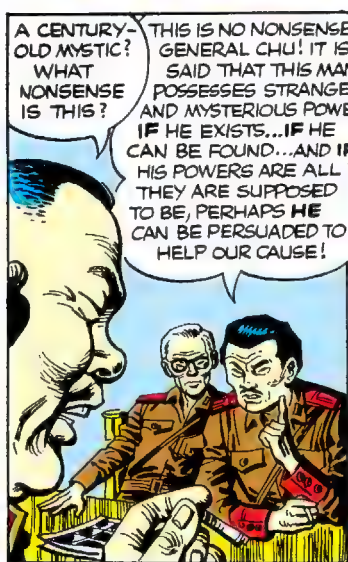
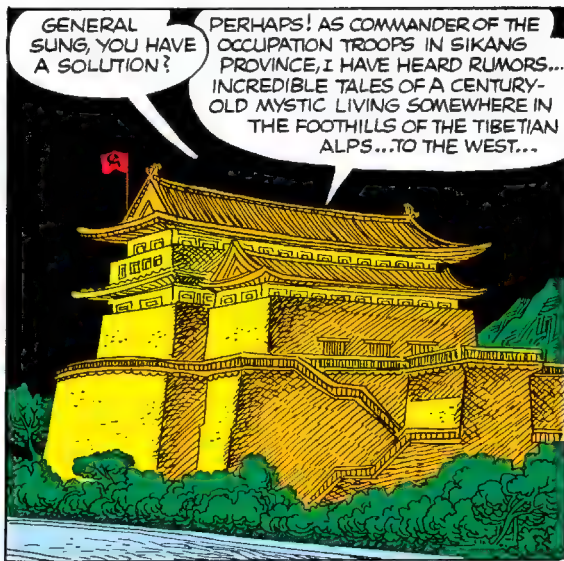
THE COMING OF THE YELLOW CLAW

JOE MANTELY

IT BEGAN SOMEWHERE NEAR KUNMING, IN THE YUNNAN PROVINCE IN CHINA, WHERE AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST HIGH COMMAND WAS TAKING PLACE...

GENTLEMEN, THE ARMIES OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT ARE GLORIOUS IN THEIR VICTORIES! TODAY, CHINA IS OVERRUN! OUR FORCES STAND POISED, READY TO BEGIN THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR CAMPAIGN OF WORLD DOMINATION... THE INVASION OF FORMOSA...

YET, WE DARE NOT MAKE THAT MOVE! FOR HERE, IN THE FORMOSA STRAITS, THE AMERICAN SEVENTH FLEET STANDS GUARD, PROTECTING THE BATTERED REMNANTS OF THE DEFEATED NATIONALIST ARMY! TO INVADE FORMOSA NOW WOULD MEAN CLASHING DIRECTLY WITH THE ARMED MIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES!

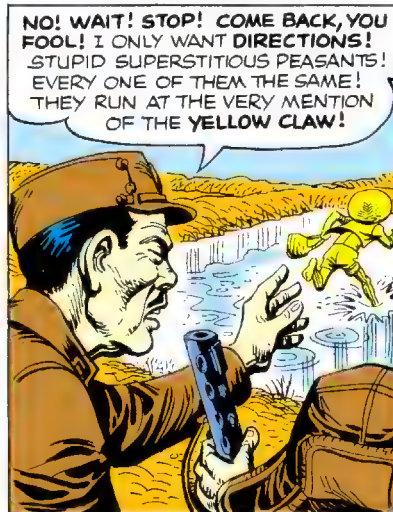




YOU THERE! I AM GENERAL MAO SUNG, OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT ARMY! I AM LOOKING FOR AN OLD MAN KNOWN AS THE **YELLOW CLAW!**

↳GASP↳
THE YELLOW CLAW?

THE FARMER'S FACE TURNED WHITE! HE TURNED SUDDENLY AND RAN, SPLASHING ACROSS THE FLOODED FIELD...



NO! WAIT! STOP! COME BACK, YOU FOOL! I ONLY WANT DIRECTIONS! STUPID SUPERSTITIOUS PEASANTS! EVERY ONE OF THEM THE SAME! THEY RUN AT THE VERY MENTION OF THE YELLOW CLAW!

THE JEEP MOVED ON...WESTWARD! INTO THE FOOTHILLS OF THE TIBETIAN ALPS...INTO MIST-FILLED VALLEYS THAT ECHOED OMINOUSLY...



LOOK, GENERAL! A WOMAN STANDS AT THE ROADSIDE AHEAD! PERHAPS SHE CAN HELP US!

WHAT IS THE USE? SHE WILL RUN OFF, WHIMPERING AND FRIGHTENED, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!

THE YOUNG WOMAN GLIDED OUT OF THE FOG AND HELD UP HER HAND, SIGNALING THE JEEP TO STOP, BLOCKING THE ROAD...



MOVE OVER, YOUNG FOOL! WE ARE ON AN IMPORTANT MISSION!

AND I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THAT MISSION! I AM **SUWAN**, GRAND-NIECE OF THE MAN YOU SEEK! HE HAS SENT ME TO GUIDE YOU! FOLLOW ME AND I WILL TAKE YOU TO THE **YELLOW CLAW!**

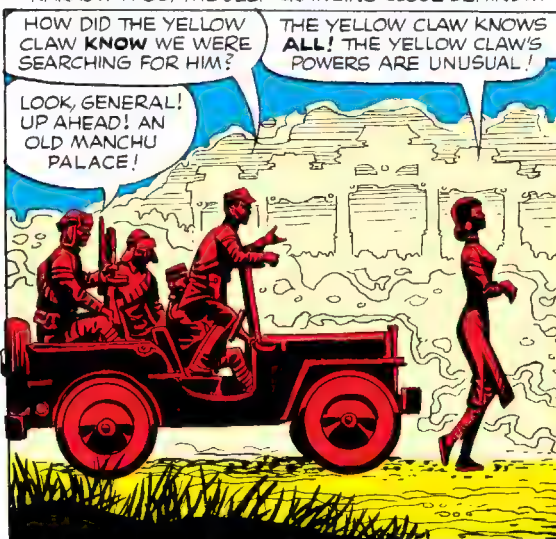
THE GENERAL STARED AT THE GIRL AS SHE TURNED AND WALKED INTO THE MIST, THEN ORDERED HIS DRIVER TO FOLLOW HER...



YOUR GRAND-UNCLE... THEY SAY IS A HUNDRED YEARS OLD! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

THE **YELLOW CLAW** LONG AGO LEARNED THE SECRET OF LONGEVITY FROM A TIBETIAN LAMA! HE IS **WELL OVER A HUNDRED!** HOW MUCH EVEN I DON'T KNOW! NO ONE KNOWS!

THE GIRL TURNED OFF THE ROAD AND MOVED DOWN A NARROW PASS, THE JEEP CRAWLING CLOSE BEHIND...



HOW DID THE **YELLOW CLAW** **KNOW** WE WERE SEARCHING FOR HIM?

THE **YELLOW CLAW** KNOWS **ALL!** THE **YELLOW CLAW**'S POWERS ARE UNUSUAL!

LOOK, GENERAL! UP AHEAD! AN OLD MANCHU PALACE!

THE ANCIENT PALACE LOOMED UP OUT OF THE MIST! THE GENERAL AND HIS PARTY STARED AT IT IN AWE AS THEY CLIMBED FROM THEIR JEEP! SUDDENLY, THE GENERAL LOOKED AROUND...



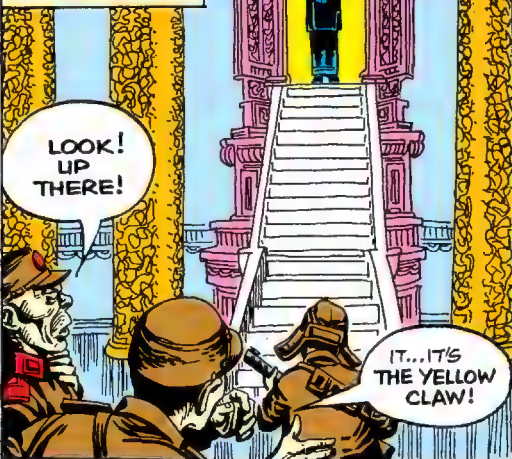
THE GIRL! SHE...SHE'S DISAPPEARED!

THE PARTY MOVED CAUTIOUSLY TO THE DRAGON-ENCRUSTED PALACE DOOR. THE GENERAL HESITATED, THEN RAISED THE HEAVY KNOCKER SUSPENDED FROM THE HIDEOUS NOSTRILS!



A HOLLOW BOOM ECHOED THROUGH THE OLD STRUCTURE! A LATCH CLICKED, AND THE DOOR SCREAMED OPEN ON TIME-RUSTED HINGES...

THE GENERAL AND HIS AIDES MOVED INTO THE GLOOMY INTERIOR OF THE ANCIENT EDIFICE! SUDDENLY, THE EAR-SPLITTING CRASH OF A GONG SHATTERED THE BLACK SILENCE...



LOOK!
UP
THERE!

IT...IT'S
THE YELLOW
CLAW!

THE YELLOW CLAW DESCENDED THE MARBLE STAIRS SLOWLY... PROUDLY... LIKE AN EMPEROR OF A LONG-FORGOTTEN DYNASTY OUT OF CHINA'S PAST...



I BID YOU WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ABODE, GENERAL SONG!

YOU...YOU KNOW MY NAME?

THE YELLOW CLAW SMILED AND BOWED... HIS EYES FLASHING...

NOT ONLY DO I KNOW YOUR NAME, GENERAL SONG... BUT I ALSO KNOW WHY YOU HAVE COME HERE! YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES HAVE DECIDED THAT MY POWERS CAN BE USED EFFECTIVELY TO CRIPPLE YOUR ENEMIES! YOU HAVE COME HERE TO PERSUADE ME TO HELP YOUR CAUSE!

IT...IT IS AMAZING!



THE YELLOW CLAW MOTIONED TO AN ORNATELY-CARVED DOOR...



MY STUDY, GENERAL SONG! WE CAN TALK COMFORTABLY IN HERE...

WAIT OUT HERE! IF I NEED YOU, I WILL CALL!

POSTING HIS GUARDS OUTSIDE, GENERAL SONG FOLLOWED HIS STRANGE HOST INTO A RICHLY-FURNISHED LIBRARY...



WE NEED NOT WASTE TIME WITH DIPLOMACY, GENERAL SONG! I AGREE TO HELP YOUR CAUSE! RETURN TO YOUR COHORTS AND INFORM THEM THAT I AWAIT THEIR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MY TRIP TO AMERICA!

VERY GOOD, BUT...JUST ONE MORE THING! I WAS ALSO ASKED TO DETERMINE IF THE RUMORS WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR POWERS ARE TRUE!



SUDDENLY, THE DEVOTED LIEUTENANT'S EYES GLAZED! AS THE YELLOW CLAW STEPPED BACK, HE GLARED AT HIS GENERAL! THEN... SLOWLY... HE RAISED HIS GUN...



AS THE GUARD'S FINGER TIGHTENED ON THE TRIGGER, THE YELLOW CLAW CLAPPED HIS HANDS! THE CONFUSED MAN SHOOK HIS HEAD AND LOWERED HIS GUN...



THE YELLOW CLAW ESCORTED THE DAZED GUARD OUT OF THE STUDY AND TURNED TO THE TREMBLING GENERAL...



THE YELLOW CLAW CROSSED HIS STUDY AND UNCOVERED A SHIMMERING SPHERE OF QUARTZ...



THE YELLOW CLAW PASSED HIS HANDS OVER THE CRYSTAL BALL...

WITH THIS ANCIENT QUARTZ CRYSTAL, I HAVE THE POWER TO SEE ALL! THE PAST...THE PRESENT...AND THE FUTURE! I SEE THE FUTURE NOW! I SEE ALL OF THE COUNTRIES ON EARTH FINALLY UNITED UNDER ONE RULE!

GOOD! YOU SEE THE ULTIMATE VICTORY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM! I LEAVE CONTENT!



AFTER THE GENERAL WAS GONE, THE YELLOW CLAW LAUGHED GRIMLY AS HE GAZED INTO HIS CRYSTAL BALL...

NO, GENERAL SLING! YOU ARE WRONG! ONE RULE DOES NOT MEAN YOUR RULE... COMMUNIST RULE! IT MEANS MY RULE! ONE DAY, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE RULED BY THE YELLOW CLAW!

THE WHOLE WORLD... RULED BY YOU?



YES, SUWAN! I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY YEARS! NOW, IT HAS COME! I WILL COOPERATE WITH THE RED CHINESE AS LONG AS IT SUITS MY PURPOSE! THEN I WILL DESTROY THEM, TOO, AS THEY WANT ME TO DESTROY AMERICA! FIRST, THE WEST...THEN, THE ORIENT... AND THEN, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE MINE!

NO, UNCLE! I WILL NOT BE PART OF YOUR MAD SCHEME!



THE YELLOW CLAW STARED INTO THE LOVELY GIRL'S EYES AND WAVED HIS FINGERS...

BUT YOU WILL BE PART OF IT, MY PET! GO NOW, AND PACK OUR THINGS! IN A FEW DAYS, WE LEAVE FOR AMERICA, AND THE FIRST PHASE OF MY PLAN...

Y-YES, UNCLE...I WILL DO AS YOU COMMAND!



AND SO SHORTLY AFTER, A STRANGE PROCESSION MOVED OUT OF THE FOOT-HILLS AND ACROSS THE FIELDS OF WESTERN CHINA...

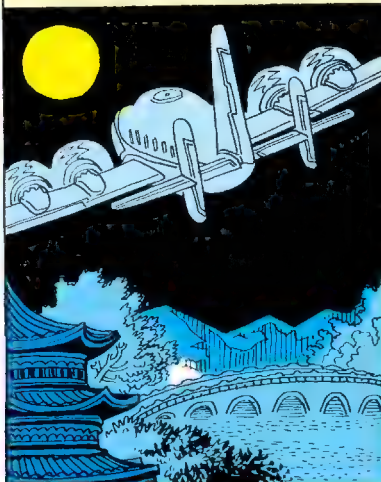


IT'S THE YELLOW CLAW!

RUN! RUN!

HIDE YOUR EYES FROM HIS SORCERY!

AT TATSIENTLU, A CHINESE COMMUNIST PLANE WAITED FOR THE YELLOW CLAW! AND WITHIN HOURS, IT WAS WINGING FAST TOWARD THE CHINA COAST...



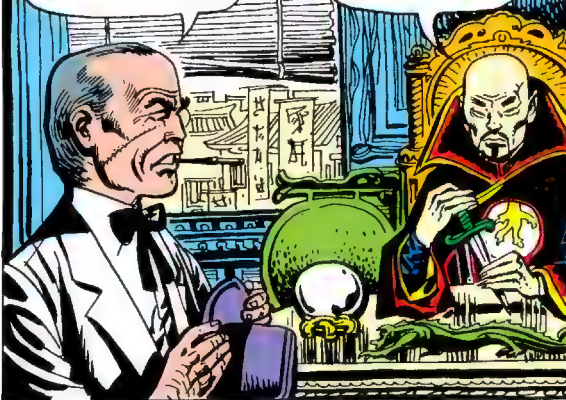
THREE WEEKS LATER, A SUBMARINE SURFACED OFF A ROCKY SHORE! A RUBBER RAFT WAS LAUNCHED! AND UNDER COVER OF NIGHT, THE YELLOW CLAW MOVED TOWARD A CALIFORNIA BEACH...



AND SO IT WAS THAT THE YELLOW CLAW CAME TO AMERICA! IN AN OLD CURIO SHOP IN THE CHINESE SECTION OF SAN FRANCISCO, HE SET UP HIS HEADQUARTERS...

ACH! YOU ARE MAD, YELLOW CLAW! I VOULD NEFFER VORK FOR YOU...

BUT, YOU WILL WORK FOR ME, HERR VOLTZMANN... AND GLADLY!

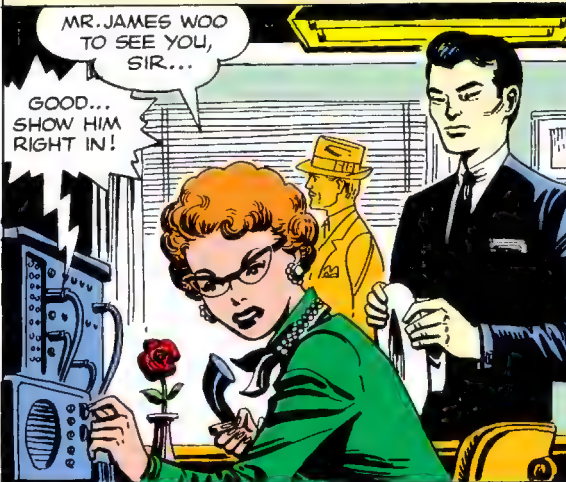


...BECAUSE, IF YOU REFUSE, THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WILL LEARN WHERE THEY CAN FIND KARL VON HORSTBADEN... ALIAS FRITZ VOLTZMANN... THE MISSING EX-COMMANDANT OF AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP... AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED NAZI WAR CRIMINALS!

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., A YOUNG F.B.I. AGENT WAITED TO CONFER WITH HIS SUPERIOR...

MR. JAMES WOO TO SEE YOU, SIR...

GOOD... SHOW HIM RIGHT IN!



JIMMY, WE'VE GOT A TOUGH CASE ON OUR HANDS! I THINK YOU'RE THE MAN TO HANDLE IT! OUR INFORMANT IN THE RED CHINESE HIGH COMMAND REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE SENT A SPECIAL AGENT TO WRECK THE U.S. DEFENSE EFFORT!



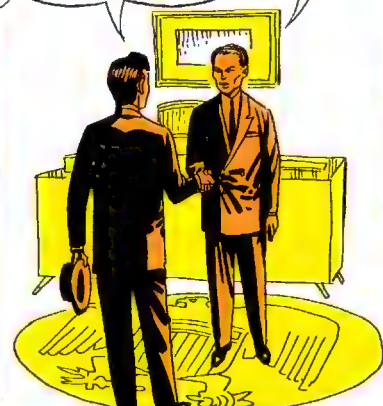
WHAT THIS AGENT LOOKS LIKE...OR HOW HE OPERATES, WE DON'T KNOW! THE ONLY INFO WE HAVE IS THAT THE GUY IS SOME SORT OF LEGENDARY FIGURE...A CHINESE MYSTIC CALLED THE YELLOW CLAW!

THE YELLOW CLAW? I'VE HEARD OF HIM! WHEN I WAS A KID, MY PARENTS SPOKE OF HIM! BUT I NEVER BELIEVED HE EXISTED!

HE EXISTS, ALL RIGHT! IN FACT, WE BELIEVE HE'S IN THIS COUNTRY RIGHT NOW...SOMEWHERE IN SAN FRANCISCO!

JIMMY, YOU'VE GOT TO TRACK HIM DOWN...BEFORE HE DOES ANY DAMAGE!

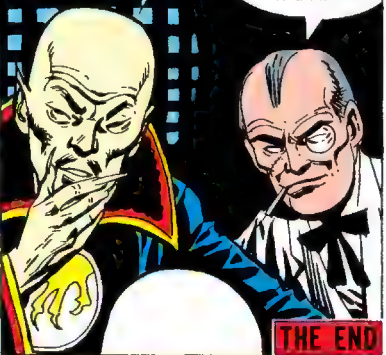
I'LL DO MY BEST, CHIEF! I'LL LEAVE FOR THE COAST ON THE NEXT PLANE...



AND AT THAT MOMENT, IN HIS CURIO SHOP...

SO THE AMERICANS KNOW I AM HERE...AND THIS F.B.I. AGENT, JIMMY WOO IS ON HIS WAY TO FIND ME! VERY GOOD! WE WILL BE WAITING...EH, FRITZ?

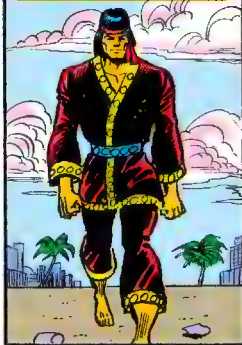
JA, HERR CLAW, VE VILL BE VAITING!



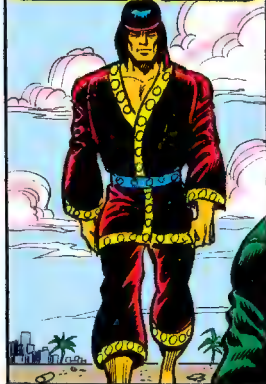
THE END

THIS THEN, WAS THE BEGINNING...THE COMING OF THE YELLOW CLAW!

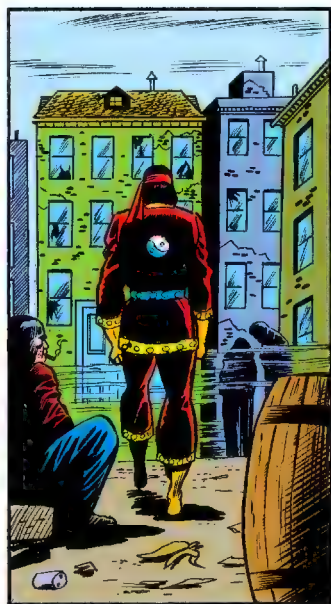
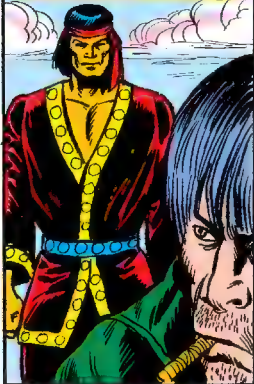
"I WALK THROUGH THE CENTER OF THIS CITY CALLED MIAMI, AND I AM REMINDED THAT EVEN THE MOST SUCCULENT PIECE OF FRUIT MAY BE SPOILED WITH DECAY AT ITS CORE.



"THE DWELLERS OF THIS PLACE COMMUNE WITH FILTH, WHEN BUT MINUTES AGO I WALKED THROUGH STREETS PAVED WITH THE WESTERN WORLD'S EQUIVALENT OF GOLD.

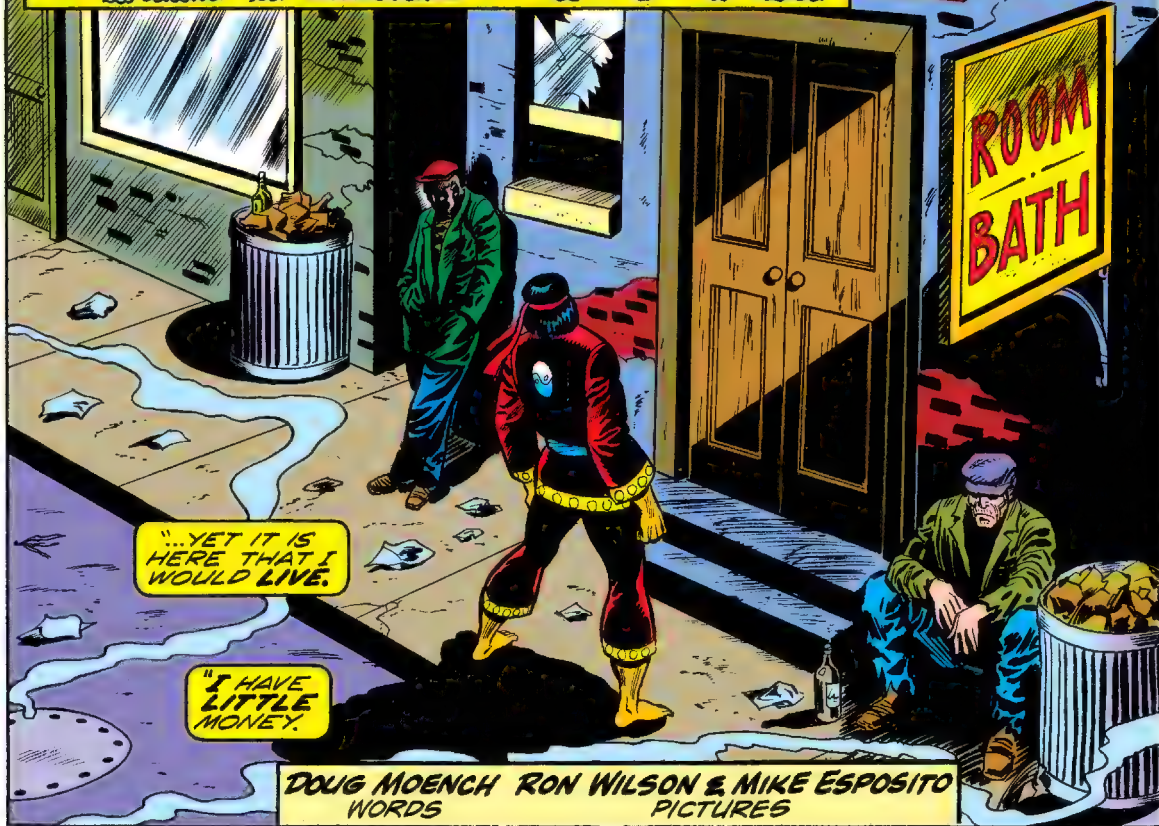


"AS THOUGH TRAVERSING THE SYMBOLS OF YIN AND YANG, I HAVE CROSSED THE JUNCTURE INTO BLEAKNESS AND DARK DESPAIR. THE REGION IS UNINHABITABLE...



REFLECTIONS

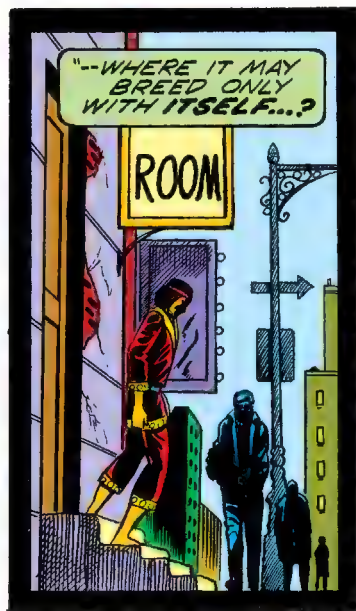
IN A RIPPLED POOL



"...YET IT IS HERE THAT I WOULD LIVE.

"I HAVE LITTLE MONEY.

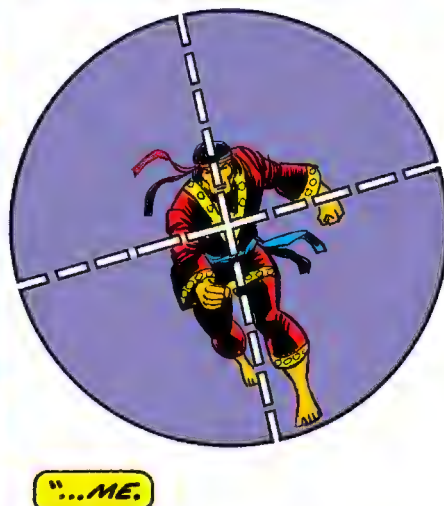
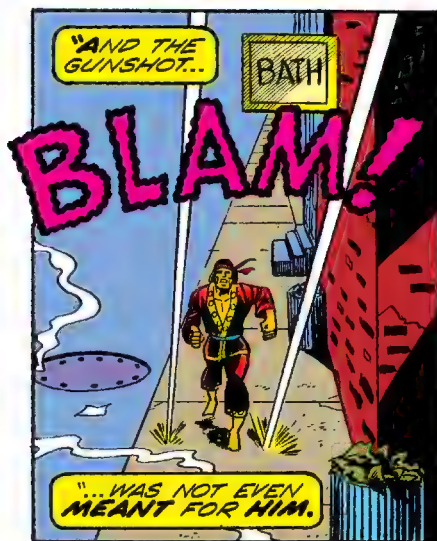
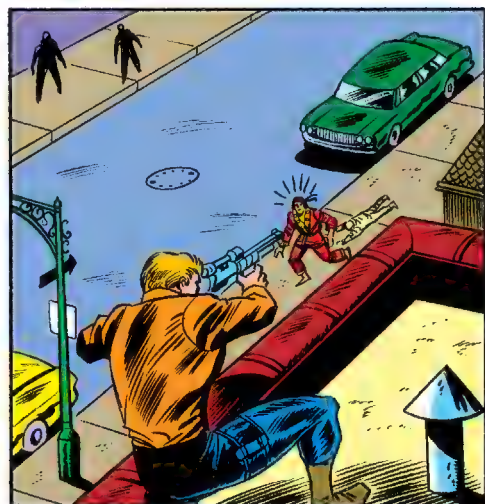
DOUG MOENCH RON WILSON & MIKE ESPOSITO
WORDS PICTURES



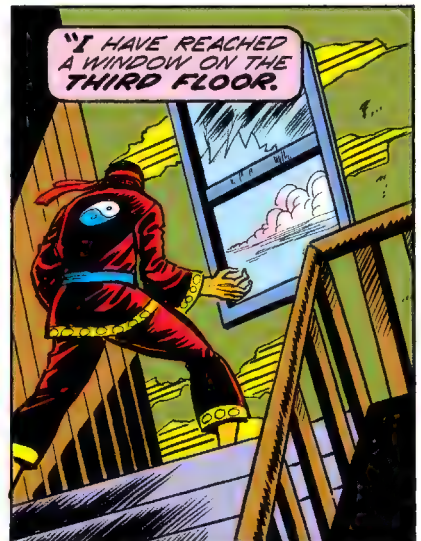
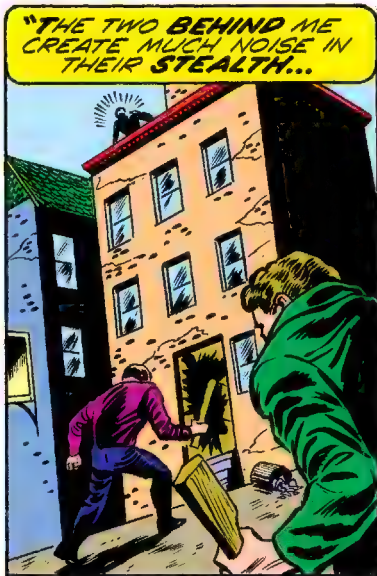
"I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT
TO BLESS THE EYE
THAT MAY SEE **INSIDE**.
YET, WHAT OF THE EYE THAT
SEES NO MORE THAN AN
INSIDE FILLED WITH...

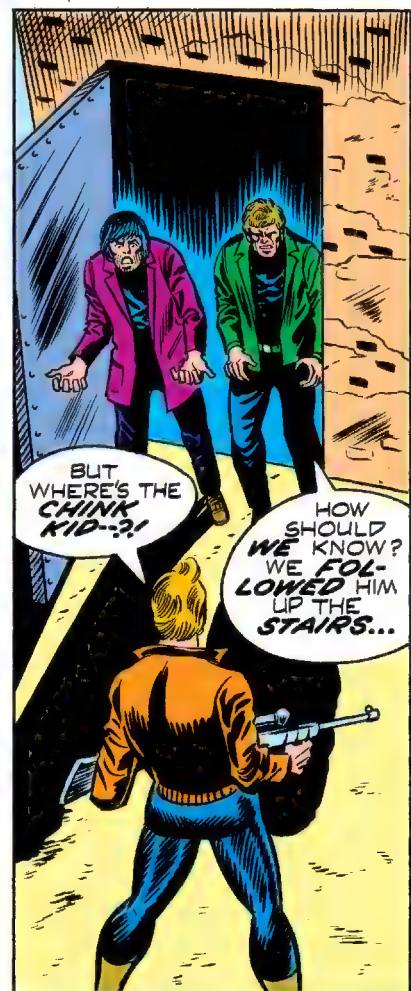
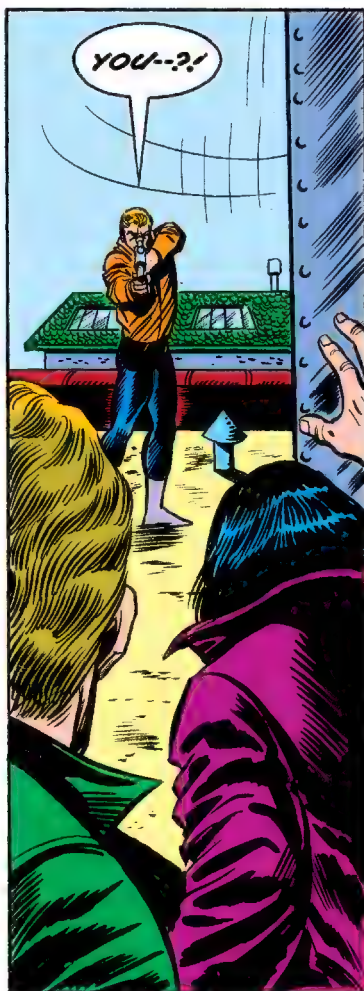
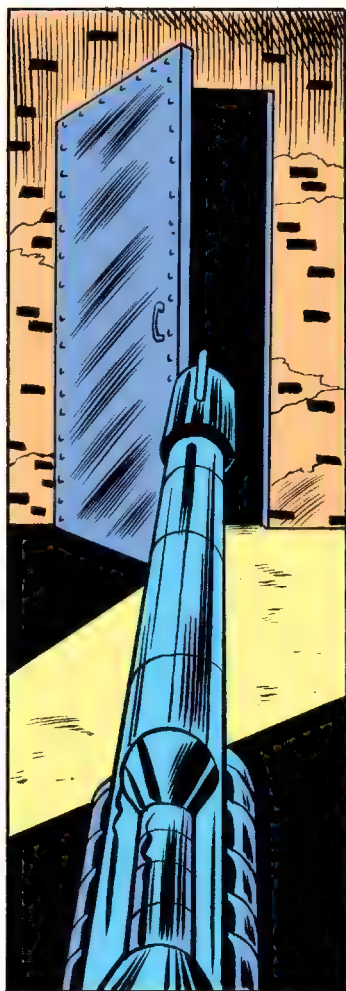
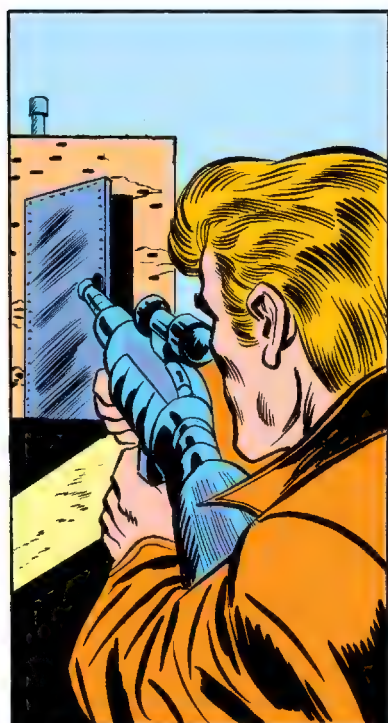
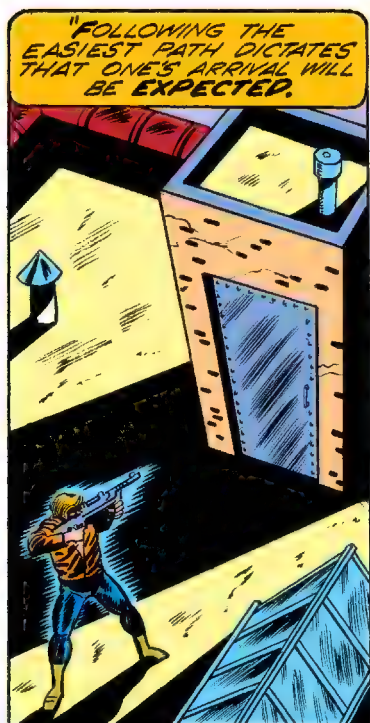


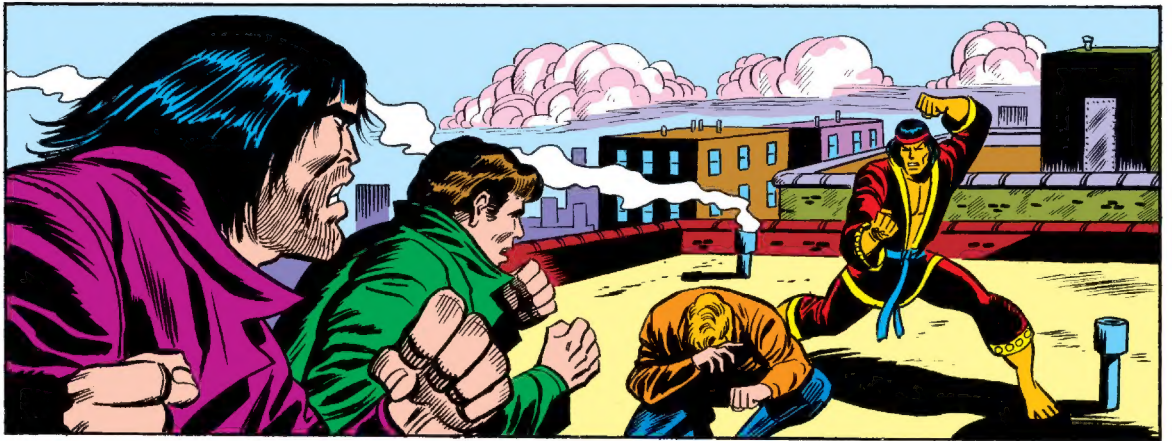
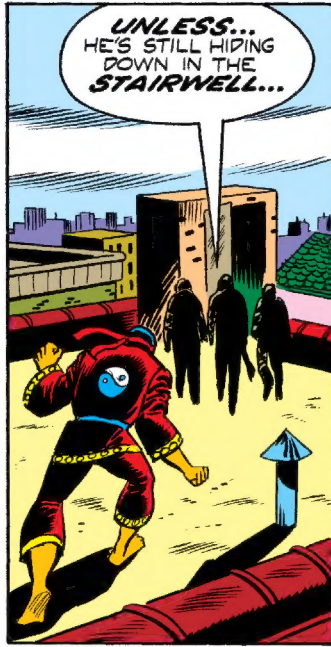
"THE MAN KNOWS
NOTHING BUT **SOUND**. I
HAVE MADE **NO SOUND**,
AND THUS HE CANNOT
KNOW--

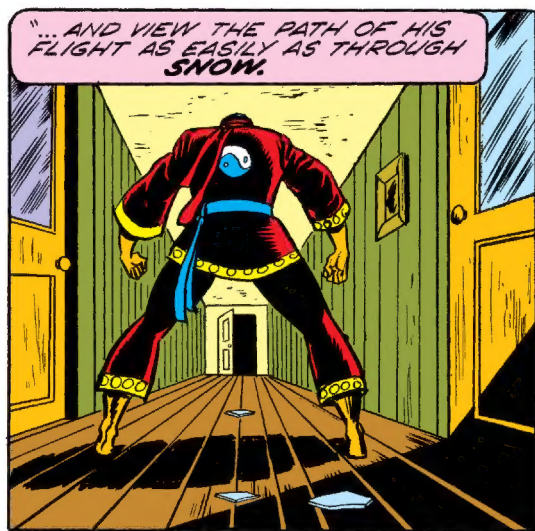


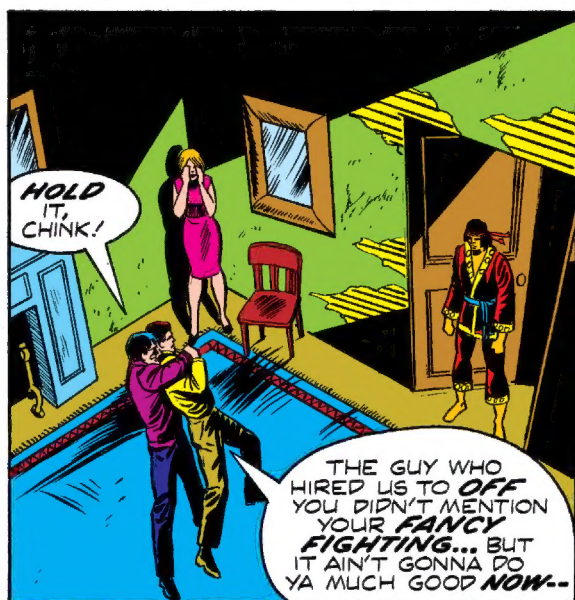
"...ME."











HOLD IT, CHINK!

THE GUY WHO HIRED US TO OFF YOU DIDN'T MENTION YOUR **FANCY FIGHTING...** BUT IT AIN'T GONNA DO YA MUCH GOOD **NOW--**



--'CAUSE IF YOU TAKE SO MUCH AS **ONE STEP FORWARD...**

...THIS THROAT **BLEEDS!**



NOW... IF YOU WANT THIS GUY TO **LIVE--**



--YOU'RE GONNA LET ME **OUT OF...**



...HUHHH--?!



BWUNT!



YOU... YOU SAVED MY **LIFE...** AFTER I REFUSED YOU THE **ROOM...?**

"I LOOK AT THE MAN... BUT MY MIND IS ON AN-OTHER-- THE ONE WHO HIRED THE **ASSASSINS...**



...FU MANCHU."

THE ROOM DOES NOT **MATTER** NOW.

MY **FATHER...** DOES NOT **WISH** ME TO SETTLE INTO A LODGING.

END

Shadowcat

